



**EXCLUSIVE: THE ONLY RINGSIDE PHOTOS OF
TERRY FUNK WINNING THE NWA TITLE**

47951 APR 1976 75¢

THE **Wrestler**

**Before
22,094
Stunned
Fans...**

**SUPERSTAR
GRAHAM
DESTROYS
BRUNO**



OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

CHAMPION: BRUNO SAMMARTINO

- 1—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
- 2—IVAN KOLOFF
- 3—ERNIE LADD
- 4—IVAN PUTSKI
- 5—BOBO BRAZIL
- 6—BUGSY MCGRAW
- 7—SPIROS ARION
- 8—LOUIE CYR
- 9—DOMINIC DENUCCI
- 10—KEVIN SULLIVAN

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

CHAMPION: NICK BOCKWINKLE

- 1—VERNE GAGNE
- 2—OX BAKER
- 3—BARON VON RASCHKE
- 4—BOBBY DUNCUM
- 5—PAMPERO FIRPO
- 6—JOE LEDUC
- 7—LARRY HENNIG
- 8—GREG GAGNE
- 9—JIM BRUNZELL
- 10—KIM DUK

MOST POPULAR

- 1—BRUNO SAMMARTINO
- 2—IVAN PUTSKI
- 3—MIL MASCARAS
- 4—DUSTY RHODES
- 5—MR. WRESTLING II
- 6—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
- 7—ANDRE THE GIANT
- 8—BOBO BRAZIL
- 9—MIGHTY IGOR
- 10—TIM WOODS

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

CHAMPION: TERRY FUNK

- 1—JACK BRISCO
- 2—PAUL JONES
- 3—SHOHEI BABA
- 4—DORY FUNK JR.
- 5—MARK LEWIN
- 6—THE SHEIK
- 7—KING CURTIS
- 8—MR. WRESTLING II
- 9—JERRY LAWLER
- 10—PETER MAIVIA

TAG TEAMS

- 1—LOUIS CERDAN & TONY PARISI
- 2—THE ANDERSON BROTHERS
- 3—BRUISER & CRUSHER
- 4—MIKE & EDDIE GRAHAM
- 5—THE VALIANT BROTHERS
- 6—PAT PATTERSON & PEDRO MORALES
- 7—THE MONGOLS
- 8—GOLIATH & BLACK GORDMAN
- 9—THE INFERNO
- 10—THE INTERNS

WOMEN

CHAMPION: FABULOUS MOOLAH

- 1—VICKI WILLIAMS
- 2—JOYCE GRABLE
- 3—DONNA CHRISTENELLO
- 4—SUE GREEN
- 5—SHEILA SHEPPARD
- 6—SUSAN SEXTON
- 7—LEILANA KAI
- 8—KITTY ADAMS
- 9—DOTTY DOWNS
- 10—BELLE STARR



BILLY GRAHAM



BOBO BRAZIL



DONNA CHRISTENELLO



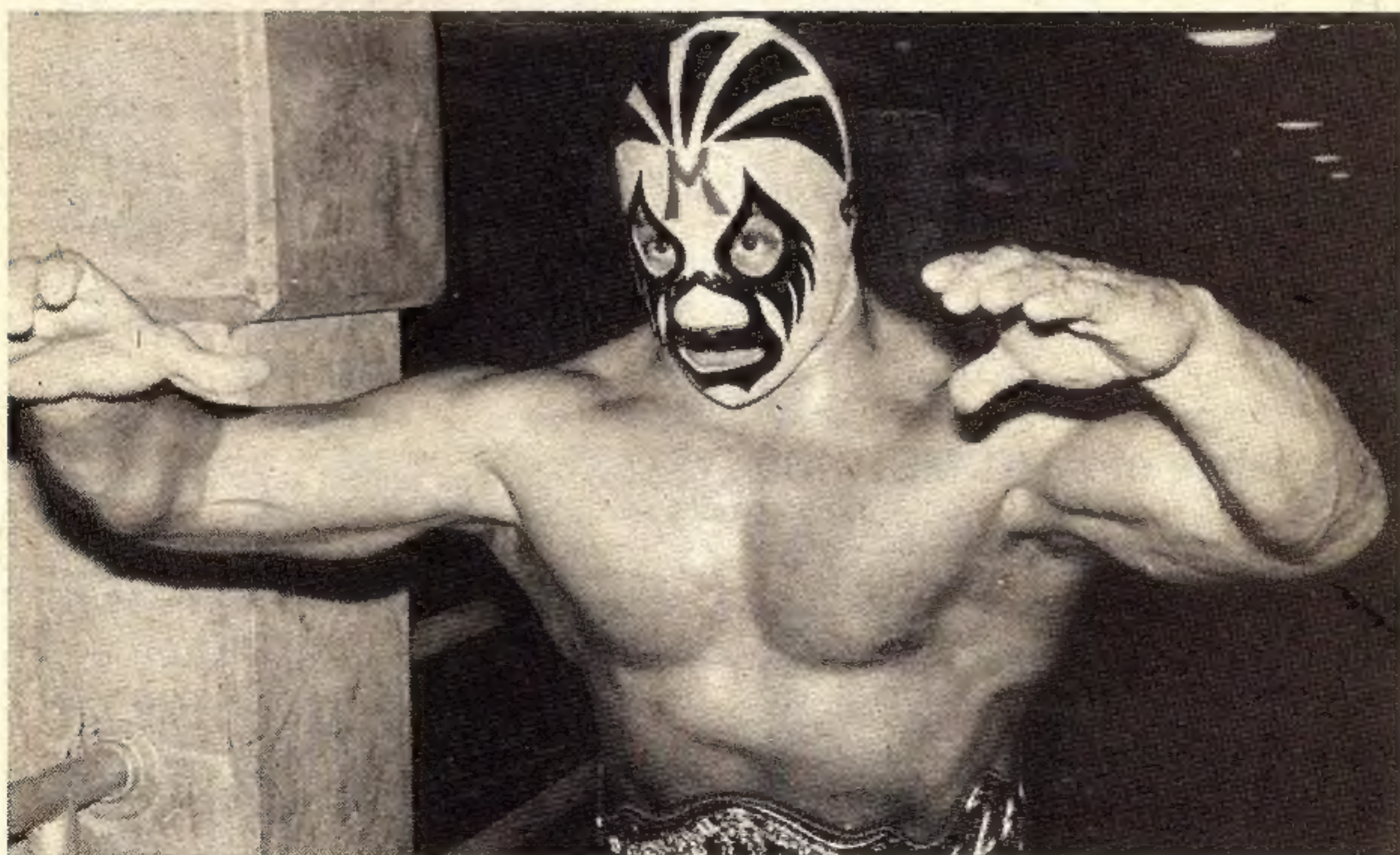
JOE LEDUC

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING, BABY!

By Bill Apter



Above: Mike Graham tosses Rock Hunter hard to the canvas. Mike won an upset over Terry Funk only one week before Funk won the title. Mike is now teaming with his father, Eddie. The new team has recently won the tag team title in Florida. Below: It appears that Mil Mascaras will not have his chance to battle WWF champion Bruno Sammartino. Negotiations between the two men have broken off.



MIKE GRAHAM DEFEATED NWA champion Terry Funk just one week before Terry won the title from Jack Brisco. Now it appears Terry is "too busy" to give Graham a shot at the coveted belt.

"He didn't defeat me," Funk states flatly. "He upset me. There is a difference between an upset and a defeat. As far as I'm concerned, my record is still clean. Graham will get his chance when he deserves it—and that might be

years from now!"

By the way, Mike and his dad Eddie have taken a grip on the Florida tag team title . . . Angelo Mosca at war against the popular Wahoo McDaniel . . . Mark Lewin continues to defend his United States title all around the Midwest . . . Bulldog Brower attacked Mighty Igor in a parking lot with a wrench and cracked Igor's head before police were able to restrain the Bulldog . . . Rumor mill says The Valiants and Bobby Heenan have had a major fallout. Heenan and the blond team say there is no truth to the rumor.

As it stands now, negotiations for the proposed Mil Mascaras/Bruno Sammartino battle are at a complete standstill.

"There are just too many roadblocks along the way," a noted WWF promoter said. "Neither Bruno nor Mil's camp can come to terms. It's down the drain as far as I'm concerned."

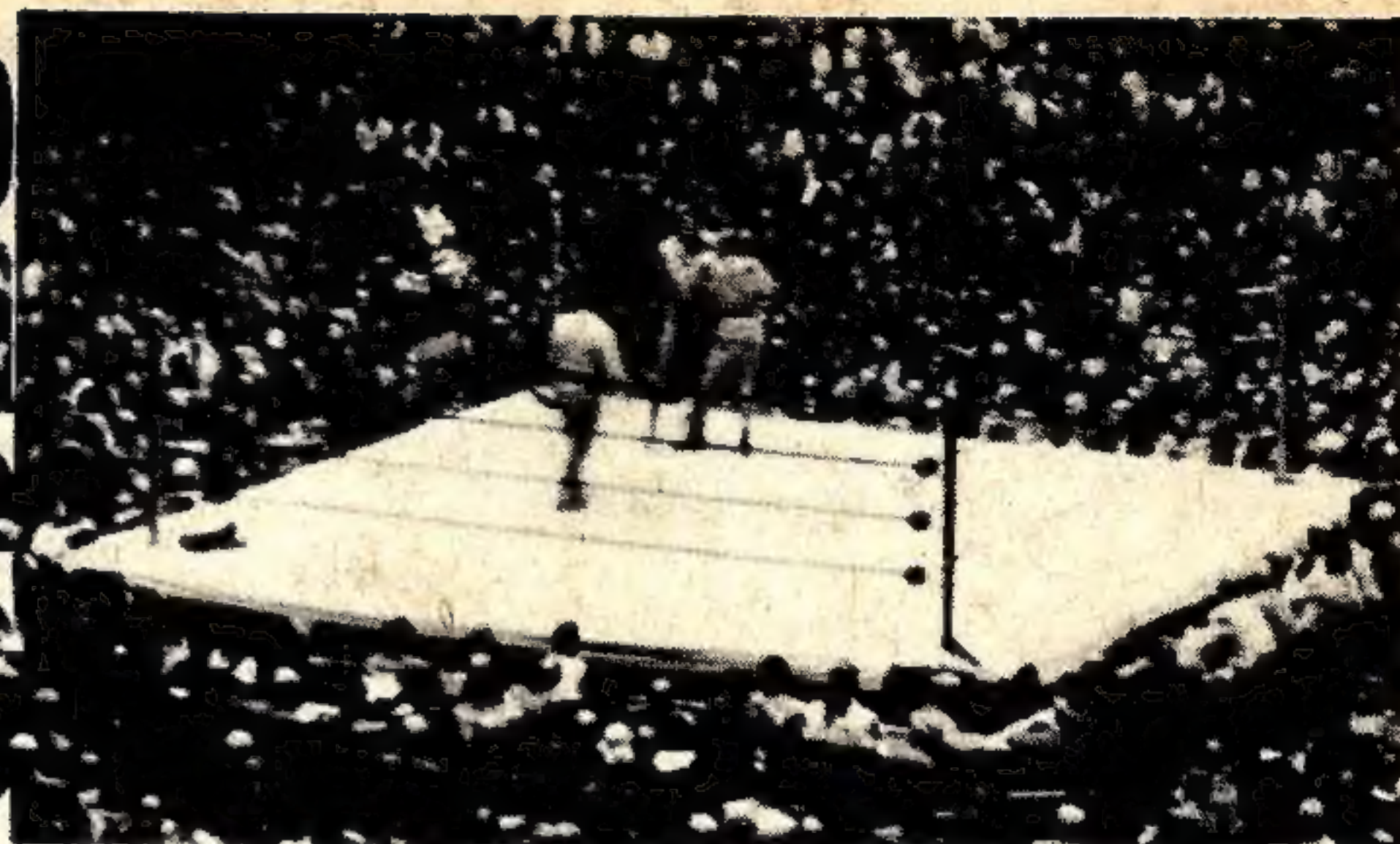
A masked wrestler with a style similar to Mascaras' is invading the mid-atlantic areas. His name is El Rayo and he has become a regular tag team partner of the likable Roberto Soto. The two have racked up many impressive victories, including one very important one—they took the nod over tag team champions The Anderson Brothers. The match, a non-title affair, had Ole and Gene stunned as the newly formed team showed unexpected years of experience.

Brutally stomping and maiming opponents is the team of Chris Colt and Count Drummer. The pair, resembling rock personality Alice Cooper and vampire Count Dracula have started a reign of terror unequalled to any team seen since The Sheik paired regularly with Abdullah the Butcher!

Florida reporter T.G. Nathan sends word "Big Bad John has come from Canada to renew the feud he had going

(Continued on page 46)

YOUR LETTERS



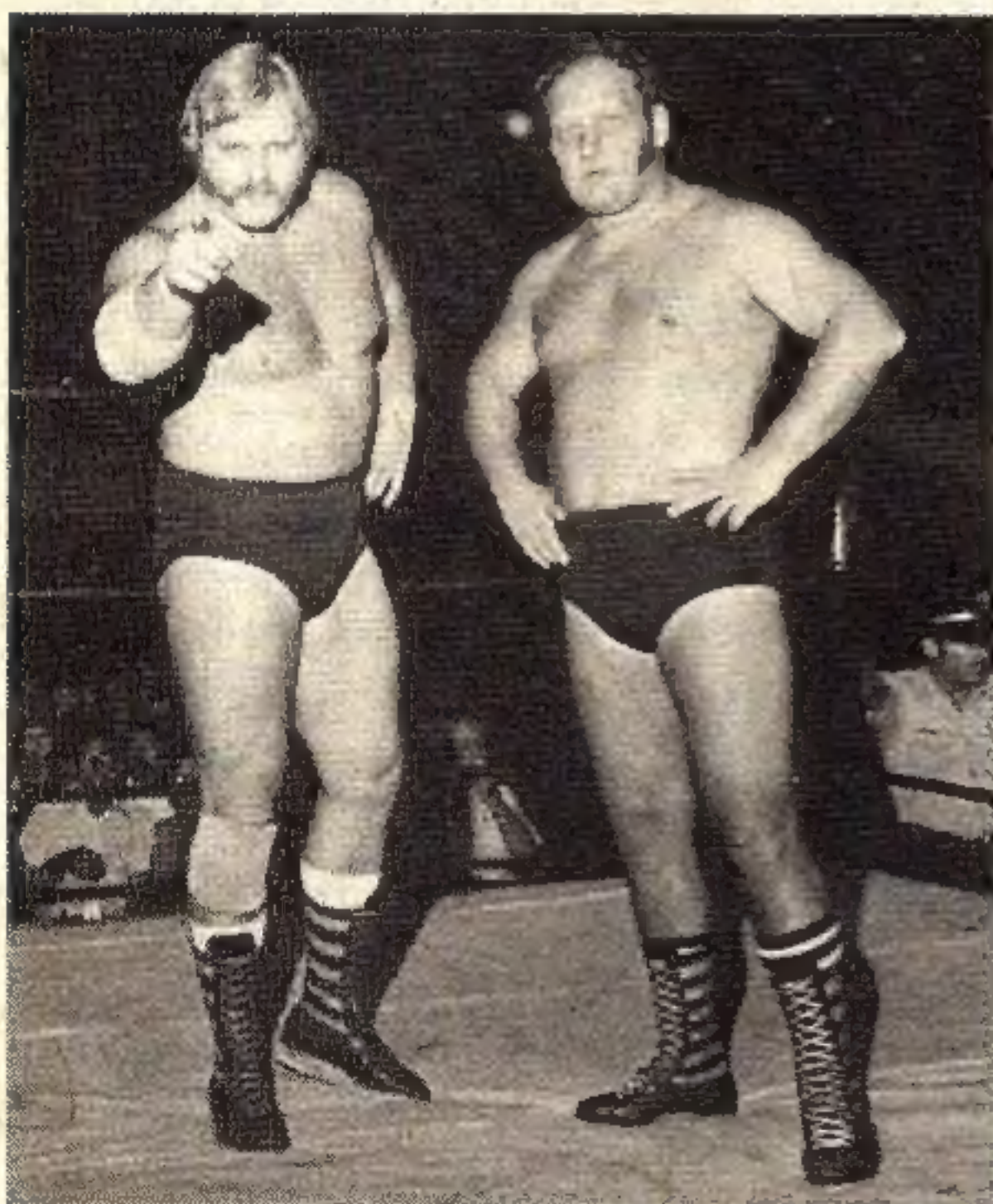
FAIR IS FAIR

The Anderson Brothers should be kicked out of wrestling. They are one of the dirtiest teams I've ever seen.

When Paul Jones and Wahoo McDaniel were NWA tag team champions, they gave the sorry Andersons a chance at the belts. The match had no disqualifications, no countouts, and no time limit. Paul and Wahoo won.

Since the Andersons got the belt back, it's only fair Paul and Wahoo get the same match.

DEBRA PITTS
Columbia, South Carolina



UNFAIR ACCUSATION

In a recent issue, Thom Fields wrote a letter declaring Verne Gagne was afraid to defend his AWA title against Sheik. He couldn't be more wrong. During his championship reign, Gagne battled the best. He honorably held the AWA title about 10 of his 20 years as a professional grappler.

Now that Verne has lost the AWA belt to Nick Bockwinkel, I feel someone should stick up for him. Verne Gagne is the greatest.

JOSEPH BUA
Valley Stream, New York



Fans are demanding the Anderson Brothers (left) give Paul Jones and Wahoo McDaniel a crack at their title. They also want Dusty Rhodes (above) to get aid.

SOME AMERICAN AID

After reading "Why German Wrestlers Must Destroy the American Dream" (THE WRESTLER/February 1976), I can't help wondering why some American wrestlers don't help Dusty Rhodes battle this German conspiracy.

Why aren't Dusty's friends helping him? Don't American wrestlers realize they have to stick together. Dusty is only the first target. The Germans want to destroy all American wrestlers!

It's about time American wrestlers banded together to show the Germans they can't destroy a man proudly calling himself "The American Dream."

ROGER THORNDIKE III
Nantucket, Rhode Island

GREAT IDEA

I think wrestling fans all over the world should learn a lesson from "The Million Dollar Rookie" (THE WRESTLER/February 1976). I think it is a wonderful idea for wealthy men to help skillful young grapplers in the beginning of their careers.

Chavo Guerrero won't have to use the \$1 million the men are willing to give him. He'll soon be able to support himself. However, it would have been harder for him without this fund behind him.

I think wealthy men all over the world should help wrestlers. Many rookies need their help.

BILLY GAUN
Boston, Massachusetts

A BRIEF VACATION

As one of Andre the Giant's greatest fans, I hope and pray he reads "Paul Jones' Shocking Confession: 'Andre the Giant Is Losing His Mind!'" (THE WRESTLER/February 1976). The

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CORRESPONDENTS Reports

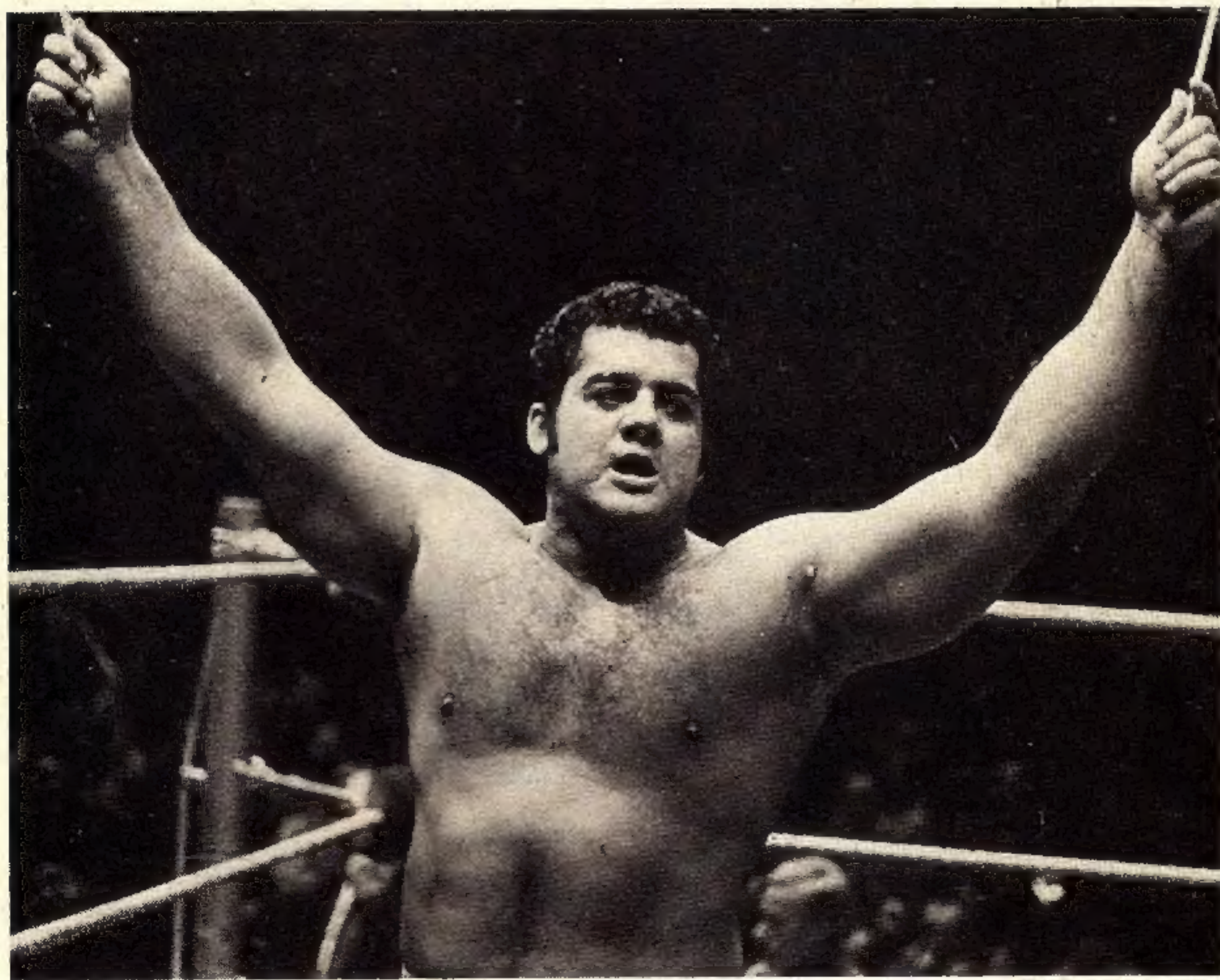
TENNESSEE ACTION By Eddie Gilbert

NASHVILLE WRESTLING FANS were treated to a very exciting match when Bob Armstrong took on the Mongolian Stomper, who was present with his infamous manager, Bearcat Wright.

Armstrong started the action with three forearm smashes. He followed these with a back body drop

summon a great reserve of strength in order to prevent a total early destruction. But that reserve was not going to be enough to defeat Armstrong.

When the referee was not looking, Wright handed his wrestler a foreign object. The Mongolian immediately began pounding on his opponent's head and midsection. Now it was Armstrong who needed help, but there was no manager



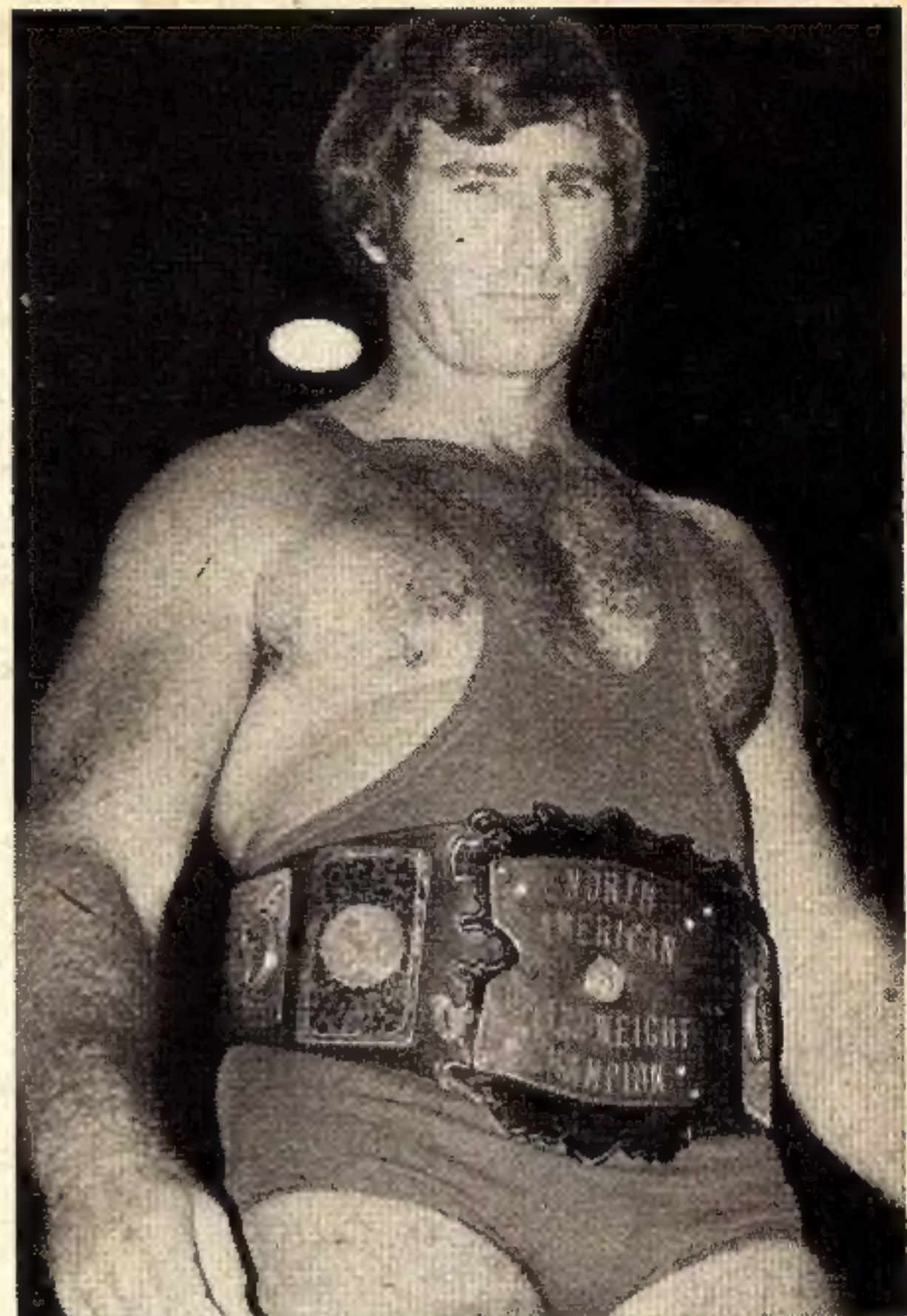
Pedro Morales, with partner Pat Patterson, won a very exciting battle against Rock Riddle and Karl Von Brauner. The conclusion of the match came when Morales was somehow able to overcome Riddle and give his cruel opponent a painful backbreaker across his knee.

and a superbly executed dropkick. The maneuvers severely weakened the grappler from Mongolia, almost moving his manager to tears at the sight of his wrestler being beaten so badly.

Somehow Stomper was able to

present to interfere for Bob, and aid would not be forthcoming.

Armstrong tried vainly to combat the vicious attack by Stomper, but his effort was to no avail. After five minutes of the brutal pounding, Bob slumped to the canvas. A few



Bob Armstrong became a victim to the illegal tactics of the Mongolian Stomper, aided by his manager Bearcat Wright.

seconds later, Mongolian Stomper was awarded the match.

In other Tennessee action, Zulu overcame opponent Don Carson with one of his famous bearhugs... Jackie Fargo and Don Green made quick work of the Golden Hawks... Steve Kovac outwrestled Bill Costello in a very exciting match.

CALIFORNIA REPORT By Larry Barnhizer

The state capital of Sacramento was the scene for a very exciting tag team match involving Pat Patterson and Pedro Morales against Rock Riddle and Karl Von Brauner.

At the bell, Karl slugged and kicked Patterson, then delivered a crushing bodyslam. Then Von Brauner rushed over and tagged his partner. Riddle came in and applied a painful hammerlock to Patterson, while Karl stayed and continued slugging away at his opponent. Together, Karl and Rock threw Pat out of the ring and onto the floor.

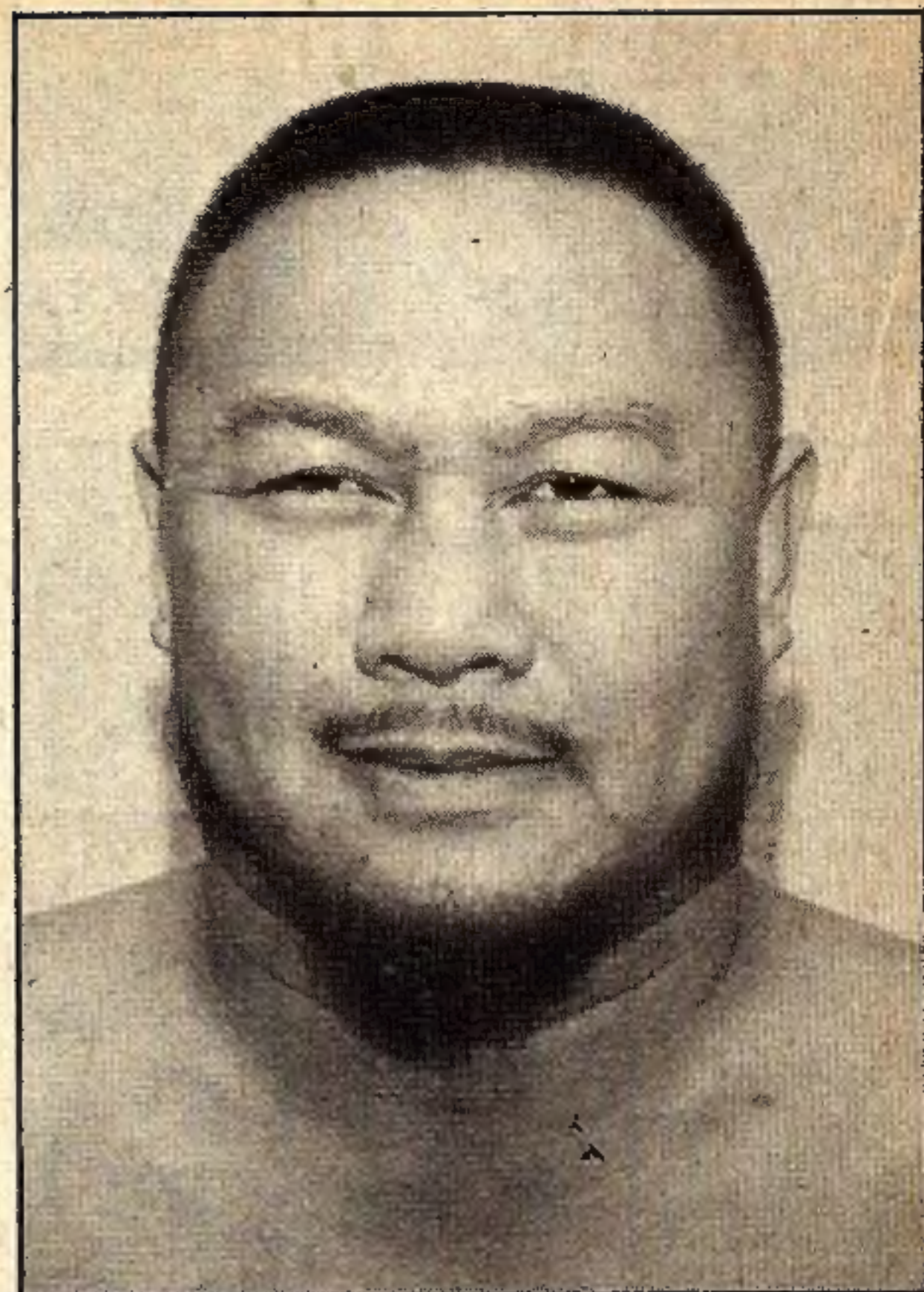
When Pat managed to climb inside, he found himself again facing both men. A wild punch by Patterson sent Riddle flying to the opposite ropes. Then Pat tagged Pedro.

The action continued like this for about 15 minutes, with each team switching back and forth between partners. The conclusion of the match came when Morales was

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YOU ASKED US

Okay fans. You asked for it and here it is. Each month either **INSIDE WRESTLING** or **THE WRESTLER** will publish *your* column—"YOU ASKED US." Just jot down a question and the wrestler you'd like us to ask it to and send it to: **You Asked Us, THE WRESTLER, P.O. Box 58, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.** Questions will be answered only in this column.



Professor Toru Tanaka is still completely refusing to talk to anyone about the rumor that he once accidentally used his judo skills to kill someone.

Q: Did Bruno Sammartino really run Killer Kowalski out of the WWF areas?—Ted Reardon, Newport, Rhode Island

A: "What a laugh!" Kowalski exclaimed when he heard that. "Put it this way: Sammartino paid me to leave town. He knew he couldn't beat me, so he begged, 'Mister Kowalski, here's a few thousand dollars. Don't embarrass me in front of my fans. Go to another territory.' It was such a sad story I bought it. But I'll be back. His money's been used up. This time though, I'll stay and take that title from him!"

Q: Who did Mark Lewin learn his sleeper hold from?—Greg Deader, Detroit, Michigan

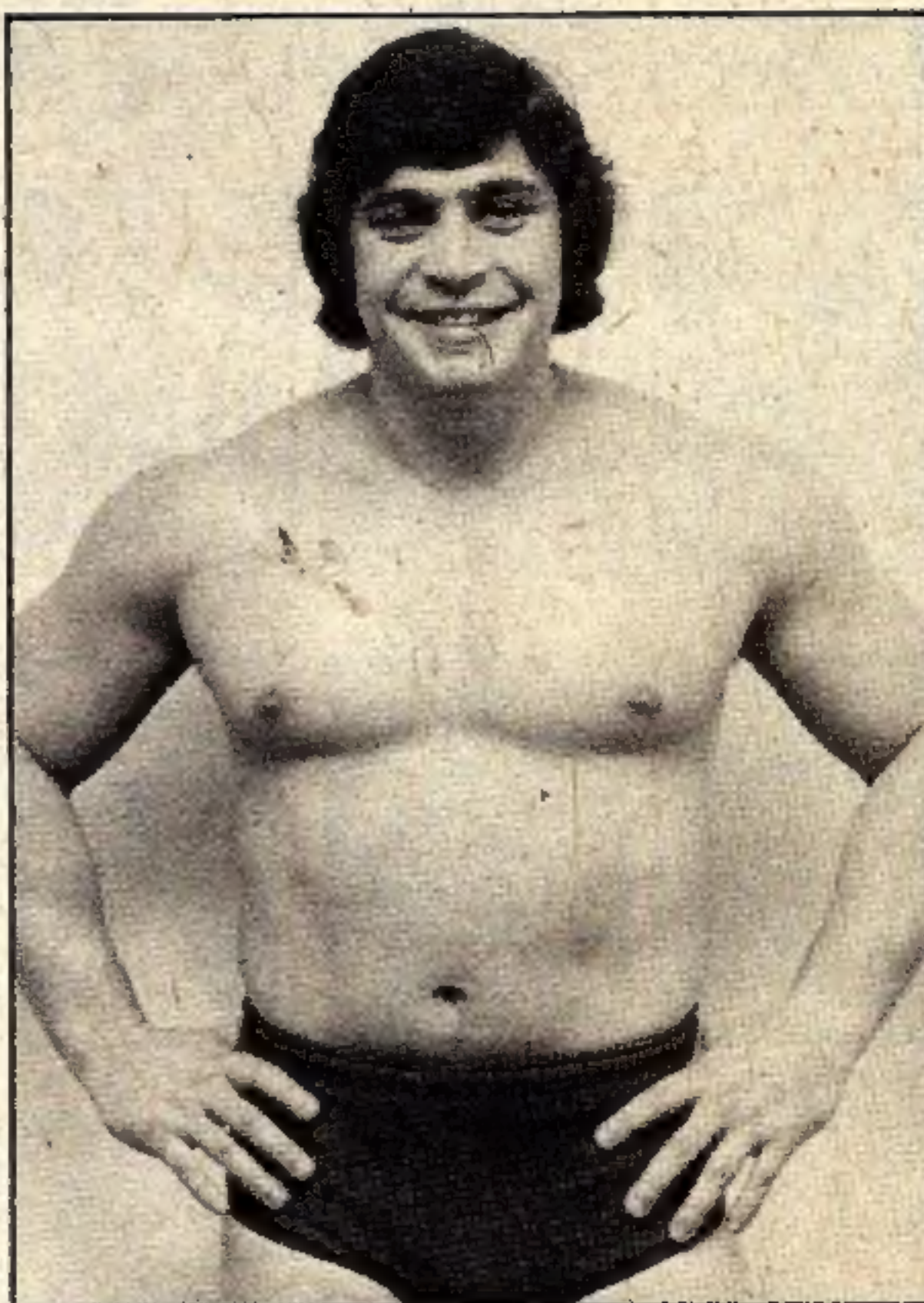
A: He was taught that hold by his former tag team partner Don Curtis.

Q: Does Professor Toru Tanaka ever admit to the rumor he once killed someone in the ring with judo?—Len Holman, Sarasota, Florida

A: We've approached Tanaka about this several times and he has refused to talk about it. Mr. Fugi, Tanaka's best friend, admits, "Even I can't discuss it with him. It's a part of his memory he does not wish to let out to anyone."

Q: How did Mil Mascaras do on his recent Japanese tour? Ruth Garzan, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

A: As usual, the spectacular masked man won all his matches and the Japanese fans hated to see him go!



Dino Bravo expressed a strong hope to once again be teamed with Victor Rivera. The pair was, at one time, the holders of the Americas title, a great honor they wish to recapture if they are given the chance to wrestle together once again.

Q: Will Dino Bravo ever team with Victor Rivera again?—Pedro Acosto, Los Angeles, California

A: "I hope to," says Dino. "You know, Victor and I were one heck of a good team. We held the Americas title and maybe one day we'll win it again. Right now we're both after individual titles, but I'm certain we'll team again."

Q: Is it true Moondog Mayne has reverted back to his "dirty" ways?—Alice Hemmer, Toronto, Ontario

A: Yes Alice, it's true. Moondog, tearing wrestlers apart in Georgia now says, "The Moondog is happy again. The fans are booin' me and it gives me the strength to go on and beat their favorites."

Q: Will Nick Bockwinkle ever admit he won the title from Verne Gagne by shady means?—Keith Keller, Indianapolis, Indiana

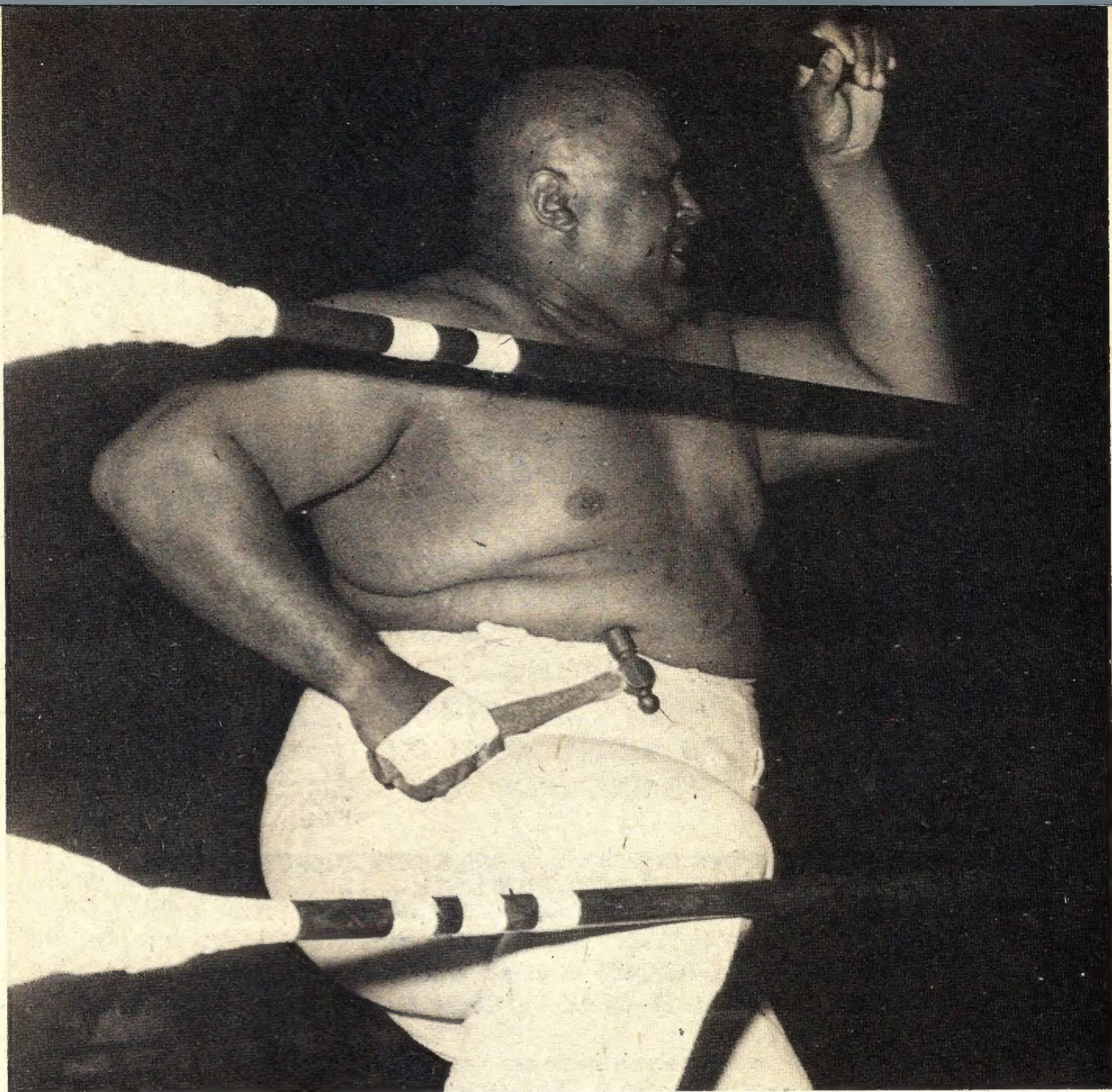
A: "If that were true I would," Bockwinkle says. "I beat Verne Gagne fair and square. His son tried to help him. Everyone says that. So my buddy Bobby Duncum came in to ward him off. Now everyone thinks Bobby helped me win. Man, fans see what they want to see, that's a fact. And they didn't want to see me win over their precious Verne Gagne. Well that's tough. They should take their loss and swallow it like true Americans!"

Q: Where is Don Kent? I haven't heard much about him since he split with Al Costello when they were known as The Fabulous Kangaroos?—James Wallit, Valley Stream, New York.

A: Kent is wrestling in Michigan and Canada and doing quite well. He has won several titles already in the few months he's been there.

Q: How come I've never seen a feature about Samoan star Reno Tuui-

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PHOTOS BY DANNY GODDARD

HAMMER

Abdullah the Butcher and Professor Toru Tanaka practice their torturous techniques—on each other!

IF THERE IS a limit to the amount of blood and violence which can possibly saturate a wrestling match, the battle between Abdullah the Butcher and Professor Toru Tanaka went far beyond it.

Who could have expected both

wrestlers, equally infamous for the employment of vicious tactics, to become bloody, beaten men before their match ended? Who could have predicted the two men would fall victim to their own brutal savagery?

A few minutes before the battle

was set to begin, spectators started clearing out from the first few rows of seats. No one wanted to be in the way when a few hundred pounds of wrestler came flying over the ropes, as most expected to happen at some point in the evening. When



VS. TONGS

everyone had found new seats, Abdullah entered the arena.

The Butcher was in a particularly bad mood that night. Normally he ignores the booing and jeering of the crowd as he walks down the aisle; on this night he growled and hissed at the spectators, snarling curses under his breath.

When Professor Tanaka entered the arena, the spectators renewed

their loud booing with added vigor. Toru also did not appear to be in the best of spirits. Many observers hoped none of Tanaka's friends were present that night. They remembered all too well the Professor's recent vow to kill any man who helped him in a match. He was a determined grappler, and tonight he was determined to destroy Abdullah the Butcher!

As soon as Professor Tanaka stepped over the ropes, the referee officially presented the two grapplers to the howling crowd though these fans needed no introduction to two of the most vicious men in the sport. As soon as the bell rang to start the match, the referee stepped as far away as possible from the bitter battle.

(Continued on page 50)

Before 22,094 Stunned Fans... SUPERSTAR GRAHAM DESTROYS BRUNO SAMMARTINO

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

NO OLYMPIAN GOD ever appeared so awesome as when Billy "Superstar" Graham stood alone within the four ropes. Sweat glistened upon his fabled body as he stood tall and proud. His body was still poised for combat, although his opponent lay outside the ring.

Feeling the concrete floor on his back was Bruno Sammartino, the WWF champion. It was difficult for this mat legend to rise to his feet; the fall through the ropes had been painful. Agony saturated his body. Yet, with the same courage which has made him a hero all over the world, Bruno struggled back.

Suddenly, it was no longer necessary for the champion to strain his aching form. The glare of murder on Graham's face became a look of conquest. The referee had counted Bruno out. Billy "Superstar" Graham had defeated the WWF champion.

"My belt!" Graham screamed. "Give me my belt! I AM THE CHAMPION!"

Billy strutted around the ring, waiting for the elaborate symbol of WWF superiority to be given him. It was the greatest moment in Graham's

career. However, it would soon turn into the greatest disappointment of his career.

"Sammartino was disqualified," referee Dick Kroll declared. "The belt doesn't change hands on a count out. He's still the champ."

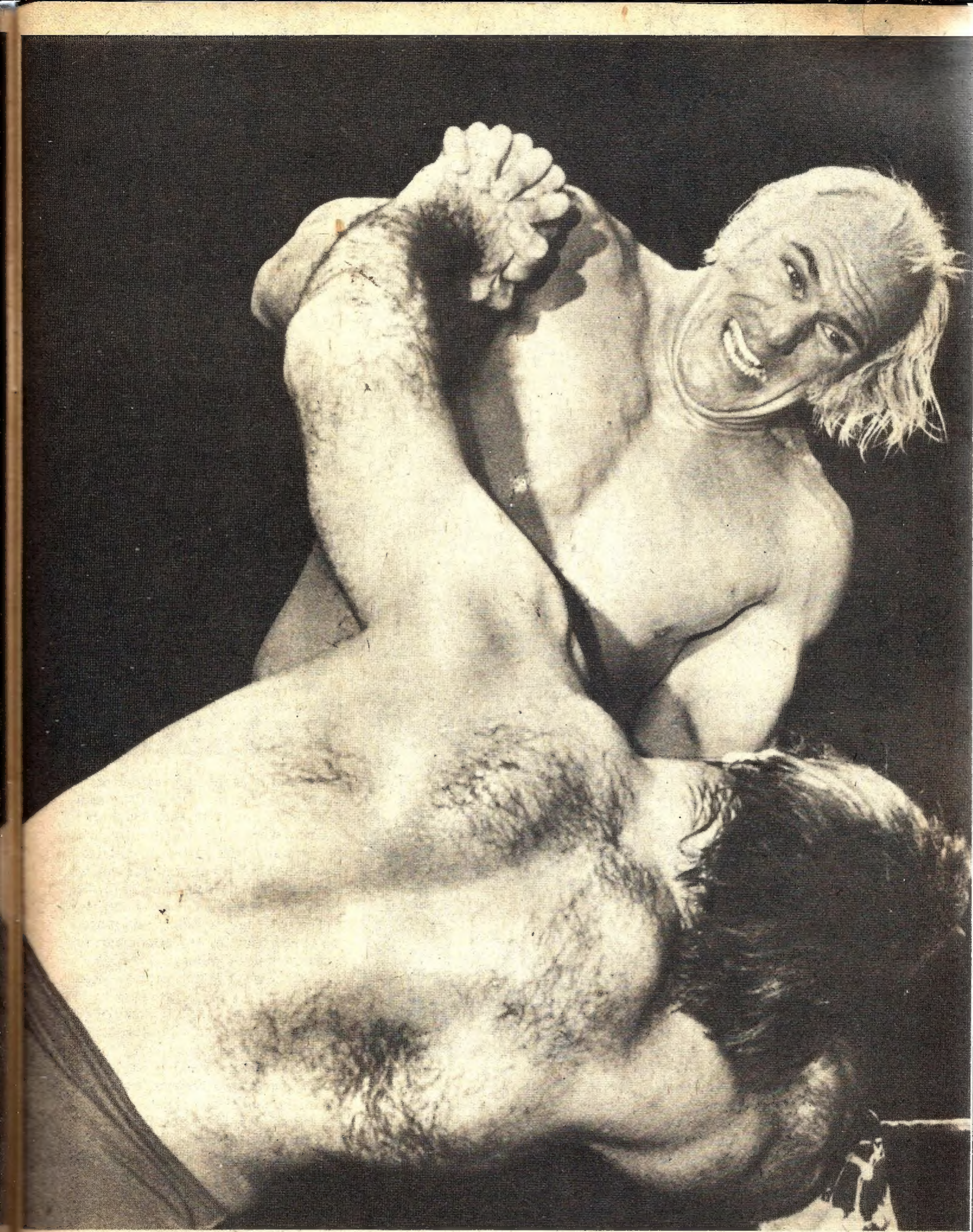
Graham was enraged. So were his many fans. The thousands who had come to cheer Bruno had been enraged since Sammartino had been counted out. The champion had been given only 10 seconds to return. The rules clearly state Sammartino should have been given 20 seconds before being counted out. Everyone was angry.

It seems a shame such an extraordinary battle had to come to this sorry conclusion. The two men, justifiably proud of their power, engaged in awesome tests of strength. There was even a battle of the bearhugs, a spectacle never to be forgotten.

The two men stood in the middle of the ring. Their huge arms wrapped around each other's bodies. Muscles bulged and veins stood out of their foreheads. Sweat burst in beads upon their skin and dripped from limbs and torso.

Continued

The match between Bruno Sammartino and Billy Graham proved to be an astonishing battle between two magnificent titans. However, this awesome brawl turned into a controversial diaster!





The two men seemed frozen in this position, pride and power being put to the ultimate test. Then, Sammartino's arms began to tremble. Desperation replaced determination upon his face. Though his brain demanded his hands remain locked, his body could not obey. A grunt of defeat escaped his lips as his grasp broke and Graham hoisted

him into the air

Elated, Graham believed he could win the match and title at that very moment. But he underestimated how much strength he had lost from this confrontation. Bruno was able to escape with an elbow smash.

The brawl continued, a battle of titans. Finally, with both men aching

and approaching exhaustion, they started to run the ropes, back and forth, back and forth, they sought the moment when they could destroy their foe. Finally, the two men collided. Sammartino fell through the ropes. Soon, the match would be over and the controversy begun.

The next day, wrestling announcer Vince McMahon Jr. attempted to clear the muddy waters.

"The WWF," he declared, "has ruled referee Dick Kroll made an error in giving Sammartino 10 instead of 20 seconds to return. Therefore, a rematch has been signed.

"We'd like to stress Dick Kroll is an excellent referee. Everyone is allowed to make mistakes. His years of excellent service should not be forgotten because of one error in judgement. Every wrestler in the world wishes matches to be controlled by a man of Dick Kroll's ability and integrity."

Two men who didn't agree with



As might be expected when these two titans clash, Graham and the WWWF champion, Sammartino, engage in a series of awesome tests of strength. Their bodies swell with might and determination as they attempt to prove their dominance. No witness to this event will ever forget the straining muscles or torsos glistening with sweat. It is a tragedy that this match had to end embroiled in controversy with Sammartino outside the ring and struggling to return to the field of battle (below). Unfortunately, this great contest will most likely be remembered for the unsatisfying end.



McMahon's assessment of Kroll were Graham and his manager, Grand Wizard.

"Kroll isn't his real name!" Wizard declared. "He's really Krollino, an Italian relative of Sammartino. He's out to protect his *paisano*. The quick count only benefited one man—Sammartino."

"Kroll was afraid Bruno would get back in the ring. Once inside, Graham would have finished Sammartino off. And then Bruno would have lost his title."

"Kroll—or Krollino—was in that arena for only one purpose—to protect Sammartino's title! And Graham proved that flunky really needs protection."

"From now on, I refuse to let any referee whose name ends in 'o' officiate during one of Billy's matches. We're making sure Graham will get the title next time he wins it. And he'll win it the next time he wrestles Sammartino."

"Superstar" was equally angry at the

outcome of the match. And he had some promises of his own.

"I'm going to kill Sammartino! The world wants me to be champion and I'll make it happy. When I'm finished, Sammartino won't be fit to wrestle preliminaries in Bulgaria!"

Equally distressed about the match was Sammartino. Bruno was acutely aware of what a loss to Graham meant to his reputation. He also knew how disappointed he had made his fans.

"I could have gotten back in the ring," he states, "and I think I could have won. I'll admit the fall knocked the wind out of me. I remained out-

side trying to regain my composure. I asked a reporter what the count was. He told me the referee was on eight. So I figured I had 12 more seconds. I was the most shocked man in the arena when Kroll said the match was over."

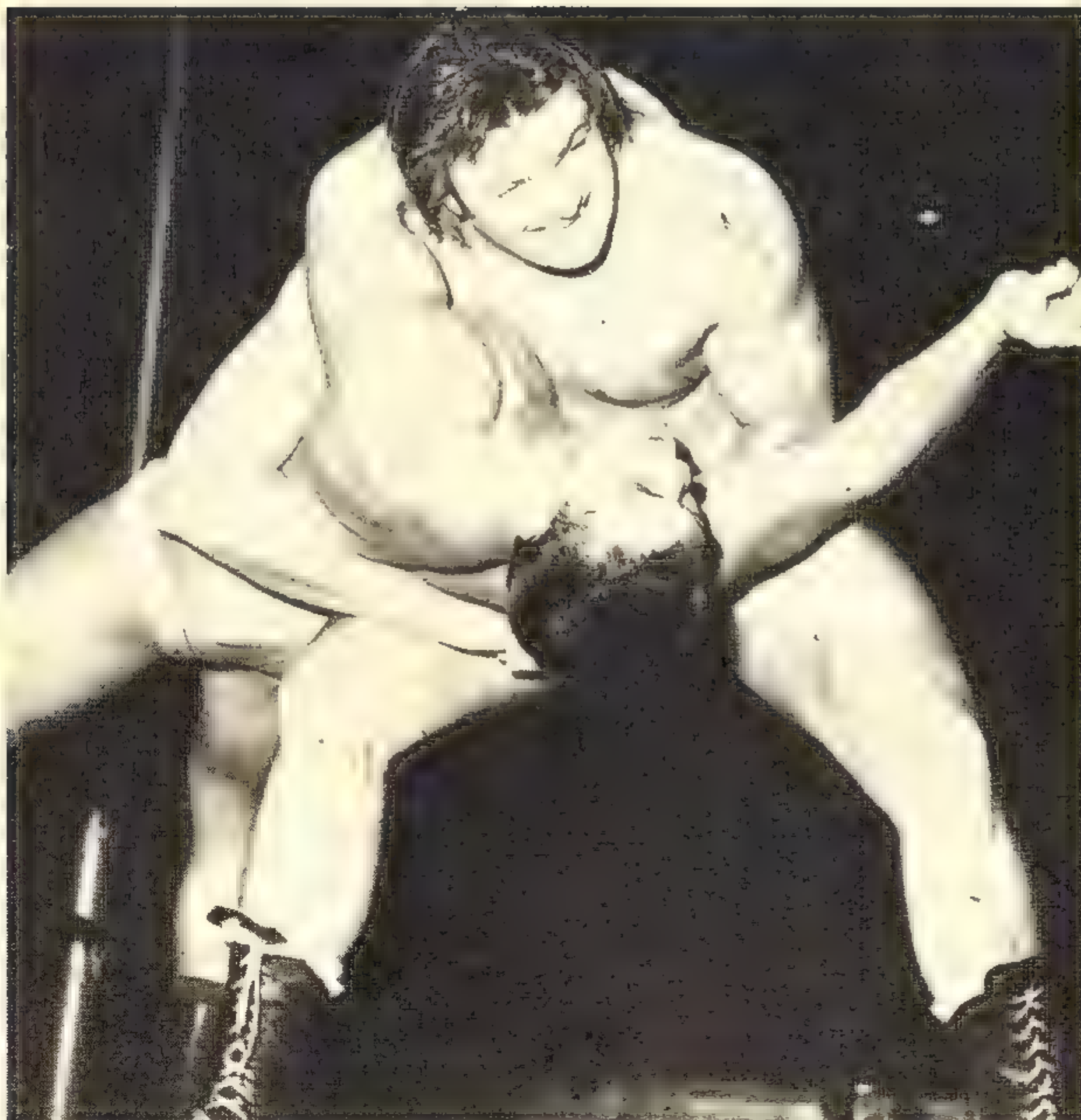
"I'm anxious to wrestle Graham again," Sammartino concluded. "I don't like the way this match ended."

So the battle of titans will be held again. The controversy had made the match the most important in each man's career. One will emerge from the match as WWWF champion. The other may never be able to show his face in an arena again. □



"HOW PROFES WREST

BY DON LEO JONATHAN



If Don Leo Jonathan had done nothing else but engage in a series of matches against the legendary Edouard Carpentier, his place in wrestling history would be assured. No one will ever forget the splendid gladiatorial confrontations between these two fabulous athletes. It's doubtful Carpentier will ever forget the agony he suffered to break out of Jonathan's excruciatingly painful bearhug.

THERE WAS NEVER any doubt I would someday become a professional wrestler. All through my childhood I was constantly reminded I had to carry on the family tradition started by my father, Brother Jonathan, a great wrestler of the 1940s.

Some of my earliest memories are of watching my father wrestle. I would sit on the side and observe him taking on opponent after opponent, beating them all. Because he was highly religious, my father used to quote passages from the bible while battling a foe.

I was inspired by my father to excel in athletics while in high school. I became a member of the football team during the fall, the wrestling team during the winter, and the track team during the spring. By this point in time, I had all ready grown to be bigger than my father in physical stature.

When I graduated from high school, I was faced with the choice of what I wanted to do the rest of my life. My father continually suggested I try breaking into the professional wrestling circuit. I was reluctant to do so at first, mostly because I did not want to be known as "Brother Jonathan's son"—I wanted to become my own man first. When the local authorities offered me a position as deputy sheriff, I accepted.

Though I was often on the road with my father, I spent most of my childhood in Hurricane, Utah, a Mormon

I BROKE INTO PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING"

Our office is constantly flooded with letters asking how to become a professional grappler. We decided the only ones who really know are the professional wrestlers themselves. Therefore, each month a different wrestler will describe the trials and tribulations endured on the path to wrestling stardom

settlement dating back to when the original Mormon settlers came west seeking religious freedom. Hurricane is not a large city, but there was enough activity there to keep me busy as deputy sheriff.

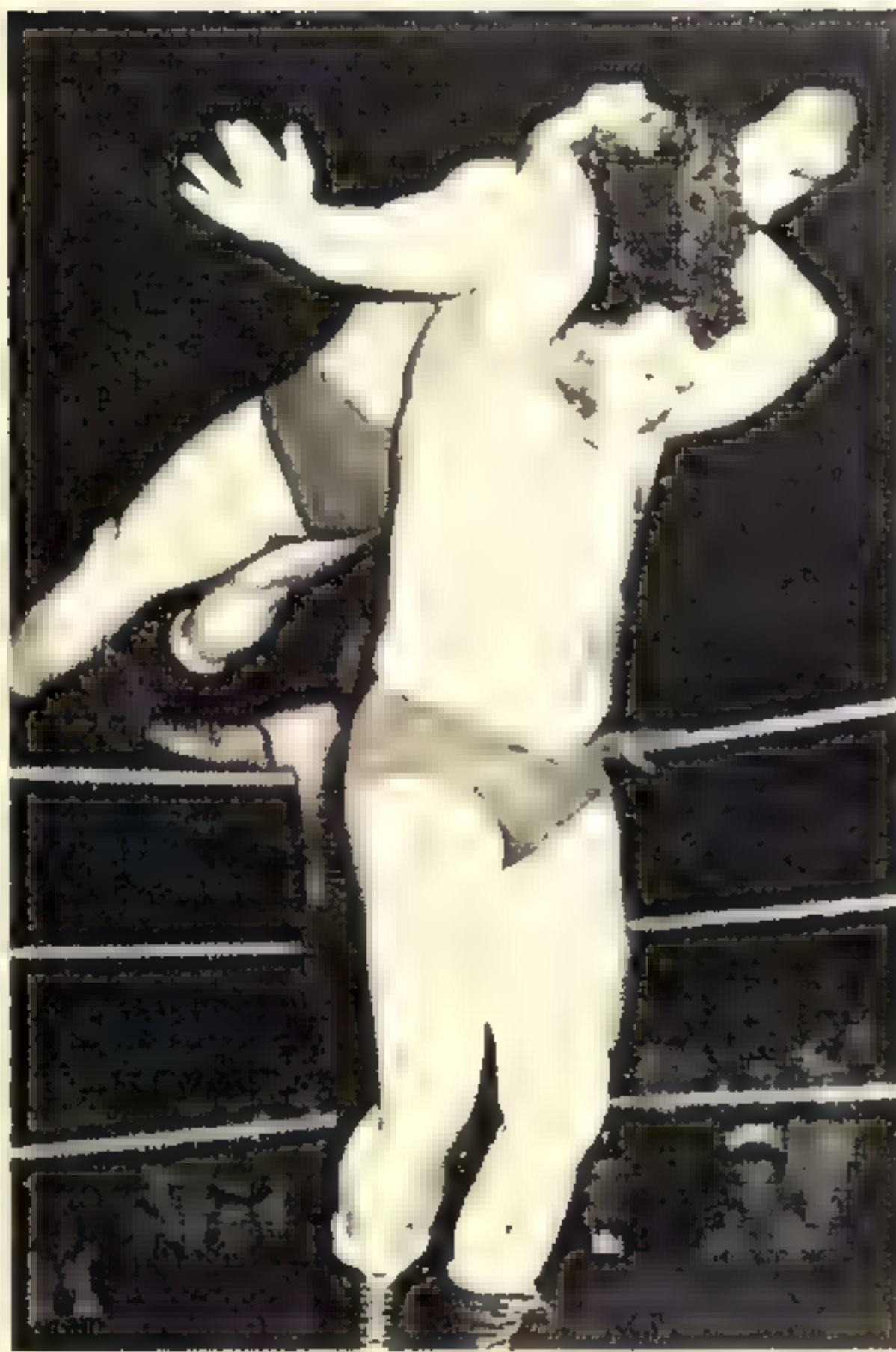
I would probably still be enforcing the law in Hurricane if a fugitive gunman hadn't shot me in the right hip during a chase in the desert. As soon as that happened, my father insisted I give up law enforcement and try to become a professional wrestler. I was more than eager to comply with his wishes!

All the time I was growing up, my father had taught me about wrestling. When I decided to comply with his wishes, he began to train me rigorously. By the time I was 20, I was ready for my professional debut.

The first couple of years were difficult, and I was often defeated. However, I never lost hope, and I usually learned from my mistakes. In due time I won the Rocky Mountain title, and began wrestling in various different parts of the country.

Unfortunately, I was often referred to as "Brother Jonathan's son, Don Leo Jonathan," even though my father was no longer a figure in the wrestling world.

About this time my interest in oceanography was rising, and I split my time between this pursuit and wrestling. With a team of other well-known oceanographers, I helped



Above left: Admired rookie Dino Bravo learns why Jonathan is so feared when Don Leo almost takes the young man's head off in a particularly brutal battle. Above right: It takes a wily veteran like the immortal Verne Gagne to make it hot for Jonathan. This match occurred early in the career of both these great grapplers.

discover new exploration techniques which are very important to the science today. By some strange coincidence, as my fame as an oceanographer rose, so did my fame as a wrestler. In the end, I was faced with a choice between the two fields, and I chose wrestling.

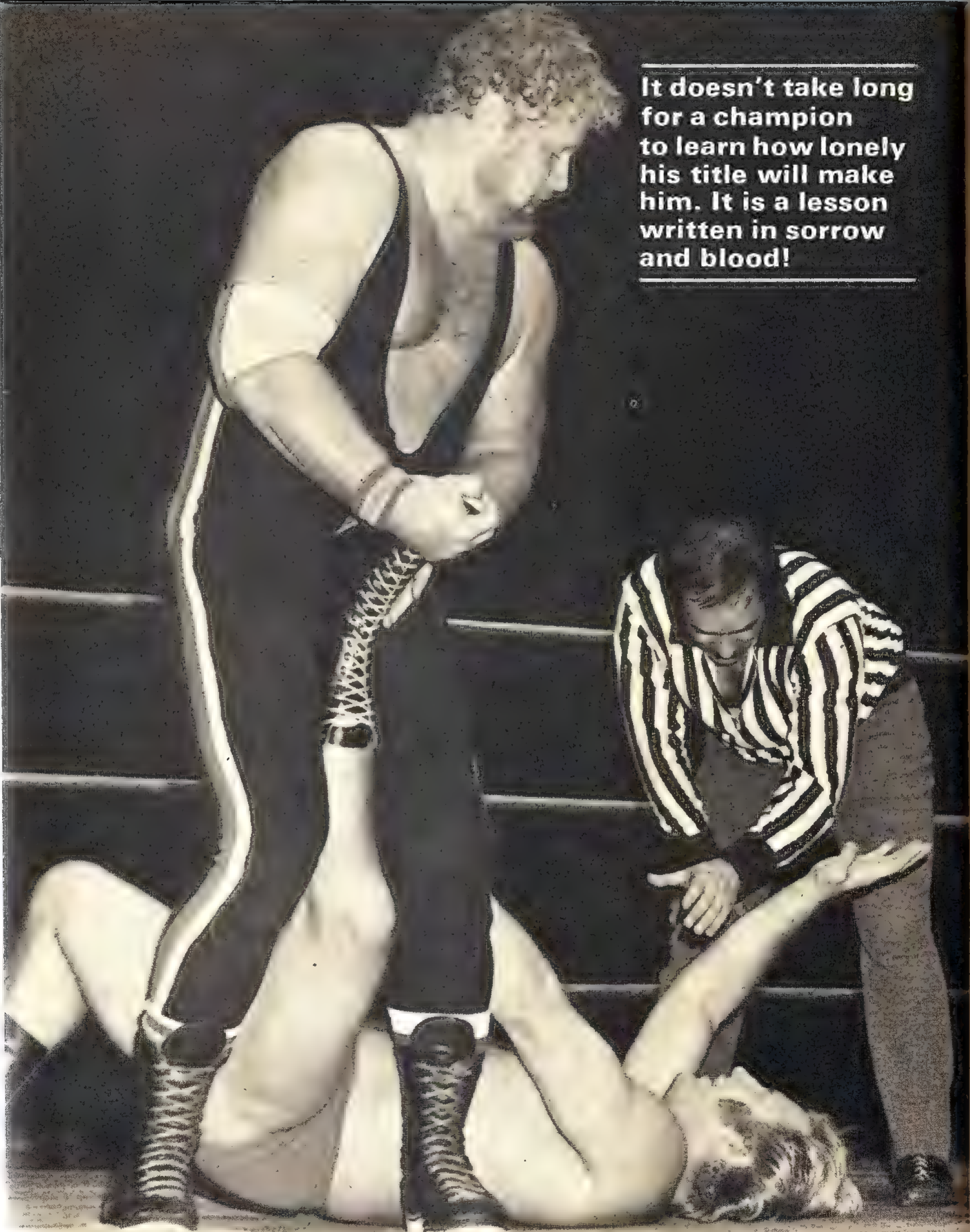
I was no longer known as "Brother Jonathan's son"—I had earned my



own fame and glory. I became a top contender for the world title, though the honor has somehow eluded me to this day. But perhaps the greatest irony was people started referring to Brother Jonathan as "Don Leo Jonathan's father!"

At that point, I knew I had made it! □

**It doesn't take long
for a champion
to learn how lonely
his title will make
him. It is a lesson
written in sorrow
and blood!**



Nick Bockwinkle Learns...

CHAMPIONS

HAVE NO

FRIENDS

PHOTOS BY TERRANCE MACHALEK



Left, opposite page: AWA king Nick Bockwinkle writhes on the canvas, victim of a fine Larry Hennig toehold. Above: Hennig shows no mercy as he drags a bloody Bockwinkle across the canvas late in the encounter.

THE FAMILIAR ARENA seemed strange and cold to Larry Hennig. He never expected to be in this situation, opposing both his friend plus his former manager. Larry was learning a professional's greatest loyalty must be to his career.

Months ago, he had signed to wrestle Verne Gagne for the AWA championship. Hennig despises Gagne and everything the venerable grappler represents. But before he could meet Verne, the champion lost his title to Nick Bockwinkle. The new champ assumed Gagne's bookings. Fate would have it so Nick's first title defense would be against Larry.

Hennig and Bockwinkle are friends and former tag team partners. In fact, Nick's manager, Bobby Heenan, once handled Larry. Wrestling Bockwinkle, with Heenan in Nick's corner, is the last thing Hennig wanted to do. Yet it was the thing he would be doing in less than two hours.

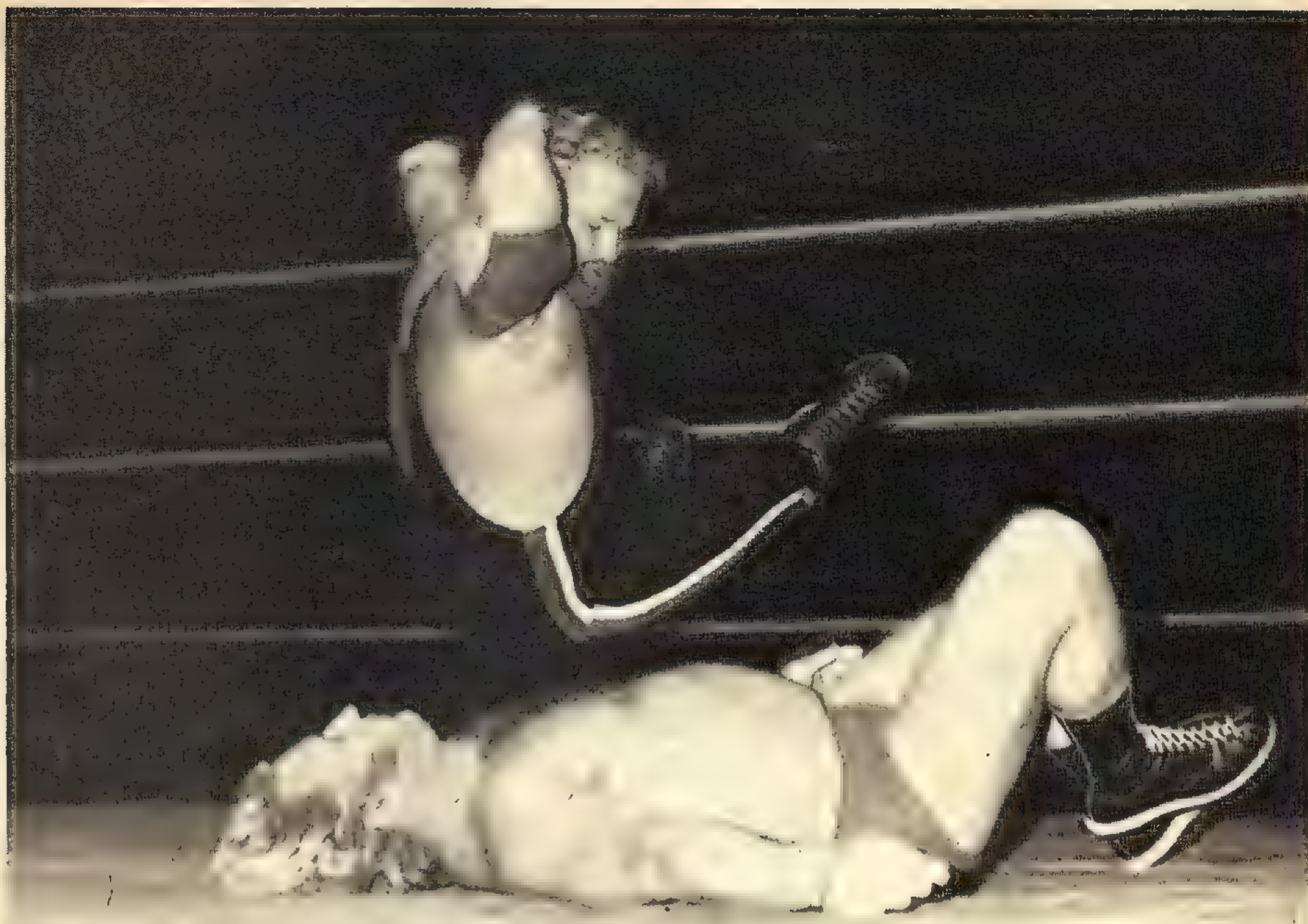
"I've dedicated my entire life to winning the AWA title," Larry said quietly before the match. "It's the most important goal I could ever have. I would break anyone who tried to stop me."

"I'm not wrestling Nick Bockwinkle, friend, tonight. I'm wrestling the AWA champion, the man who has what I want most. We're professionals. We know better than to expect charity when it comes down to the nitty-gritty. Once I step inside those ropes, friendship doesn't mean a damn thing. I'll do everything I can to destroy Nick. I'll go after Bobby if I must. They don't expect me to do any different."

Yet, watching Hennig prepare for the match, one could sense his unease. Being part of the dreaded Heenan army, Larry felt a close comradeship with his fellow wrestlers. When they walked into an arena, it was theirs. Larry now deeply felt the absence of that feeling. He was learning the hard way what it was like to be forced to oppose a friend.

When he walked toward the field of battle, Larry's face was a stolid mask of determination. Any questions he may have felt, any sorrow he may have suffered, was gone. He was ready to try for the AWA title.

Heenan and Bockwinkle entered the arena swaggering with glory. They looked nastily at Hennig as



they climbed over the ropes.

"Hey, traitor!" Heenan screamed at him. "We thought up some brand new tricks to use on you. And you know what happens to guys who get taken in by our tricks! Prepare to bleed, baby! Prepare to bleed!"

Larry knew Bobby's words were meant only to take him off-balance. Still, hearing them from Heenan hurt. They hurt more than Larry would ever admit; he couldn't hide the sorrow from his eyes. Then the pain turned to rage—a cool, professional rage. The bell sounded and the rage sent him roaring at Bockwinkle.

Two brutal opponents met in the corner of the ring and tore into each other. For the first few minutes, the two men battled to a stalemate. Then Bockwinkle gained a slight advantage as Heenan crowed his delight. Perhaps it was the sound of Bobby laughing at him that spurred Hennig on to take command of the match—and almost take Bockwinkle's title!

Larry reversed Nick's hold and started to pound away. Forearm smashes sent Bockwinkle reeling into the ropes. Then a series of

Hennig tortures his foe with a flying elbow smash (above) and agonizing necklock (below) as he tries to take the AWA crown.



brutally effective maneuvers sent the champ flying to the canvas. Bockwinkle's face was a mass of bloodgushing wounds as Hennig waded in for the kill.

Heenan watched helplessly outside the ropes. All his famous techniques for distracting his man's opponent were proving useless.

Hennig refused to let himself open for distraction or interference. He knew Heenan's tricks too well.

Bockwinkle grew bloodier and weaker. He began to stumble across the canvas on rubbery legs. His eyes filled with fear as visions of losing the title overwhelmed him. Heenan's mind was working a mile a minute trying desperately to devise some strategy to prevent the seemingly inevitable disaster.

Then, Heenan found his chance. Larry threw Nick into the ropes in preparation for the final "ax," Hennig's most devastating maneuver. Heenan was there, however, and pulled the rope down. Nick went toppling over the rope and crashing to the floor. The referee, mistakenly supposing Henni threw Bockwinkle over the ropes, disqualified Larry. Bloody and battered, Nick was still AWA champion.

Larry Hennig left the arena soon afterward. He had done his job the best he could. So had Bockwinkle and Heenan. Someday, Larry will once again battle for the AWA title—against whomever the champion happens to be. □



A FEUD IS BORN

Lurking beneath the surface of every feud is terrible tragedy. Will this be the fate of Dick Murdoch and Bob Jagers?

PHOTOS BY BILL BEACH

IT SEEMS THERE are some men who just naturally attract enemies. They go from year to year making more people despise them and are powerless to change the tide. Dick Murdoch is such a man.

For years, a running feud was waged with Jim Dillon. The battle

never came to a satisfactory conclusion, though the two men engaged in countless matches. But now Dillon has faded from the feud and a new figure has emerged: a rookie named Bobby Jagers.

The new feud started even before the two men did battle. When the

Texas promoters announced a match between Murdoch and Jagers, Dick stated flatly he would not participate. "There is no way," Murdoch proclaimed, "I will go against a mere rookie like him. I deserve and demand more experienced competitors. This is an insult to me."

When Bobby Jagers heard this, he exploded: "Who does Murdoch think he is? He is just afraid to wrestle me. He knows I can easily beat him. The fact I am a rookie has

(Continued on page 52)



***AT HOME WITH...
JERRY LAWLER***

Few fans get the privilege of visiting Jerry Lawler's castle. The king of wrestling now opens his doors to the readers of this magazine!

PHOTOS BY SCOTT TEAL



Left, opposite page: Jerry is always happy to pose with his wife and sons. Above: How many fans know Jerry is a talented artist? Right: Jerry's new passion is for air hockey, at which he is ruthless! Below: The fountain in Jerry's living room is actually a fishbowl!



(Continued on page 54)



JACK BRISCO
VERSUS
DORY FUNK JR.
FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP!!
KING CURTIS
VERSUS
BIG BILL DROMO
SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP!!
THE DESTROYER VS CYCLONE NEGRO
UNITED STATES JR. CHAMPIONSHIP!!
MIKE GRAHAM VS VON STEIGER
THUNDERBOLT PATTERSON VS BOB ROOP
PLUS THREE MORE MATCHES!!!
WED.
DEC. 10th
8:30 P.M.
RINGSIDE \$6
RESERVED \$5
GEN. AD. \$4
SUNDAY CHANNEL 6 7:00 P.M.
SUNDAY CHANNEL 23 3:30 P.M.



Funk Defeats Brisco at Beach

Reprinted from late Thursday editions
Terry Funk defeated Jack Brisco in the feature match of the Miami Beach Convention Center wrestling program Wednesday night before a crowd of 5,164.

In other matches:
Bill Dromo won by disqualification over Curtis, The Destroyer and Cyclone tied to no decision (both counted out).
Mike Graham defeated Karl von Steiger.
Thunderbolt Patterson pinned Bob Roop.
Rip Hawk defeated Rocky Johnson.
Bob Orton Jr. defeated Abe Jones.
Omar Negro and Ron Starr wrestled to a draw.



TERRY BRING THE BELT HOME



Funk Defeats Brisco at Beach

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In other matches:

Bill Dromo won by disqualification over Curtis; The Destroyer and Cyclone Negro tied to no decision (both counted out of 7); Mike Graham defeated Karl von Steiger; T. derbolt Patterson pinned Bob Roop; Roger K. Jones and Rip Hawk defeated Rocky Johnson and T. Omar Negro and Ron Starr wrestled to a draw.

Here are the press clippings describing this great event. Note how advertisements for the match say Dory Funk Jr. was to be Brisco's opponent (opposite page, top left). Terry was a late substitution.

SLAM-O-GRAM

25¢



Vol. 1 - No. 11

OFFICIAL WRESTLING PROGRAM

Official N.W.A. Bulletin!

Terry Funk: NEW WORLD CHAMPION!

TERRY FUNK is the new world Heavyweight wrestling champion. The youngest of the world famous family, the fighting Funks, defeated Jack Brisco in the big Miami Beach Convention Center in Miami, Florida, on Wednesday, December 10th.

The new champ, who hails from Ubar or, Texas, is the second one in his family to hold the big title. His brother, Dory Funk Jr., held the title for over four years, before dropping the belt to Harvey Kato in Kansas City, Mo. Kato then dropped the belt to the fiery youngster from Blackhill, Oklahoma, coach Jack Brisco.

On the night of the title change, Brisco had been signed to defend his belt against former champion, and top contender, Dory Funk Jr. Dory was unable to appear for a yet undisclosed reason, so his younger brother Terry took his place and shocked the entire wrestling world by winning a credit to pin Brisco in just a few minutes.

Although it was a surprise, as it was a match between two brothers, the result was a triumph for the new champ. Terry Funk holds the title to the surprise of many who expected Jack to fulfill his dream of becoming a world champion. This fact makes it a real shock at the new champ. Terry Funk, in his new role as the new champ, will have the title to his credit with the new champion on the phone & Terry Funk, another name added to the list of the mat sport's greats.



TOUGH TERRY FUNK



JACK BRISCO

EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS BY PAUL BAUMAN

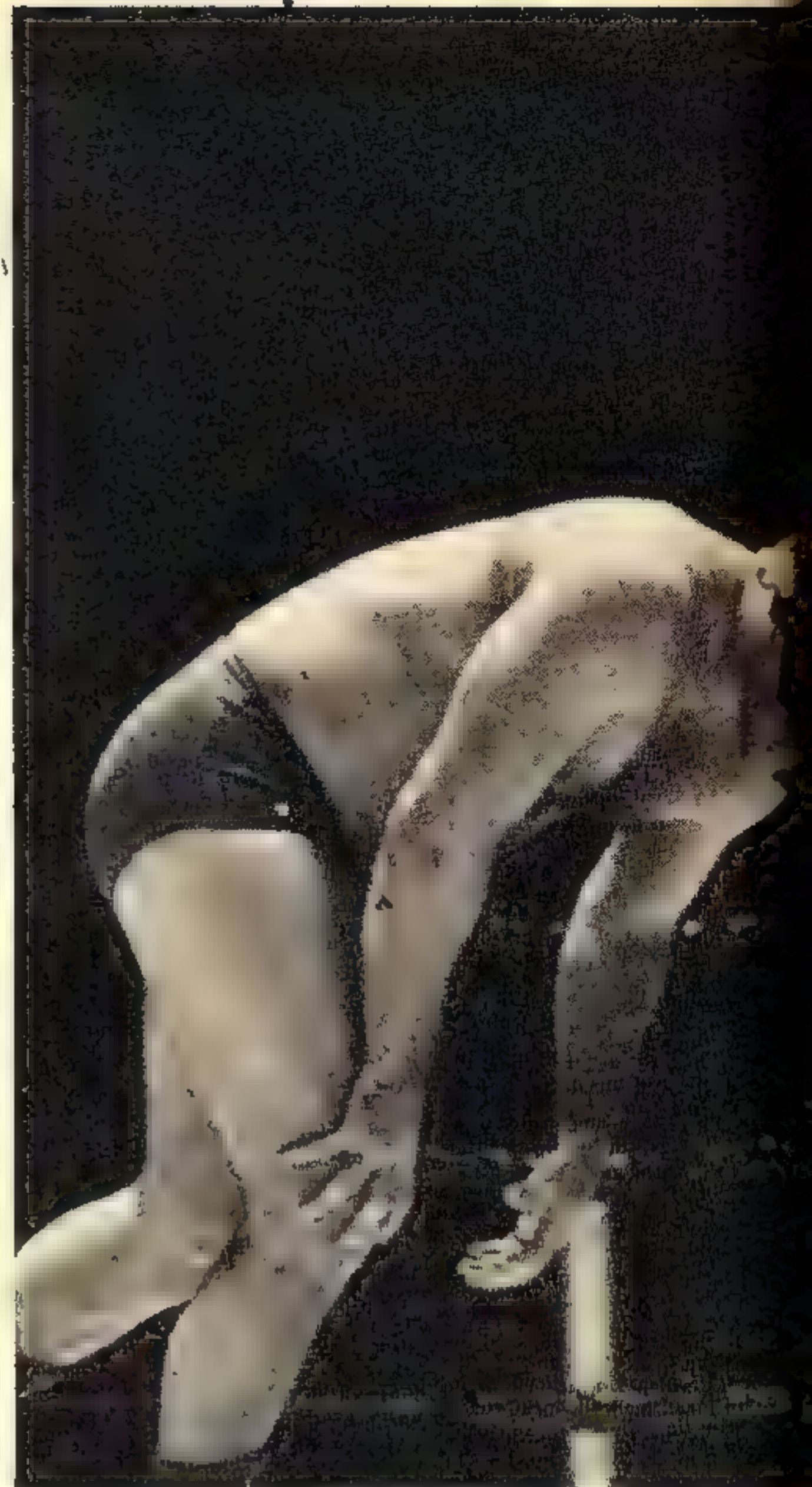
Terry Funk becomes the second member of his family to win the NWA championship. Here is our exclusive coverage showing how Funk battled his way to Jack Brisco's crown

JACK BRISCO STOOD anxiously awaiting the arrival of his challenger for the evening. He kept looking toward the dressing room wondering why Dory Funk Jr. had not yet appeared. The Miami Beach crowd was growing restless and Jack was growing more tense as the minutes slipped by in anticipation of Dory's appearance.

Suddenly a figure ran out of the dressing room dressed in street clothes. As the man rushed into the

arena, Jack could tell it was not Dory, but rather Dory's younger brother, Terry Funk.

Funk climbed into the ring and grabbed the microphone. "My brother Dory will not be able to appear tonight," said Terry. "He has been wrestling in Japan and could not make plane connections in order to be here for his match against Brisco. Therefore, I am challenging Jack Brisco. He has often said he will wrestle me



Above: A battered Brisco tries an elbow smash but Terry ducks out from under it. Jack's look of anguish as he misses the blow is one indication Brisco knew he was in trouble. The maneuvers which had worked so often in defending his title, were ineffectual on this memorable evening. Terry Funk was instinctively perfect—there's no way to beat that. Right: Terry's entire body radiates happiness as he lifts the NWA championship belt in the air; the symbol proving he is the top grappler in the whole association!

anytime. I say he has been bluffing."

Brisco walked to the center of the ring, grabbed the microphone from Terry and said, "I have no objections to wrestling you. If it is all right with the NWA, it is all right with me—as long as there is a return clause in the new contract we sign."

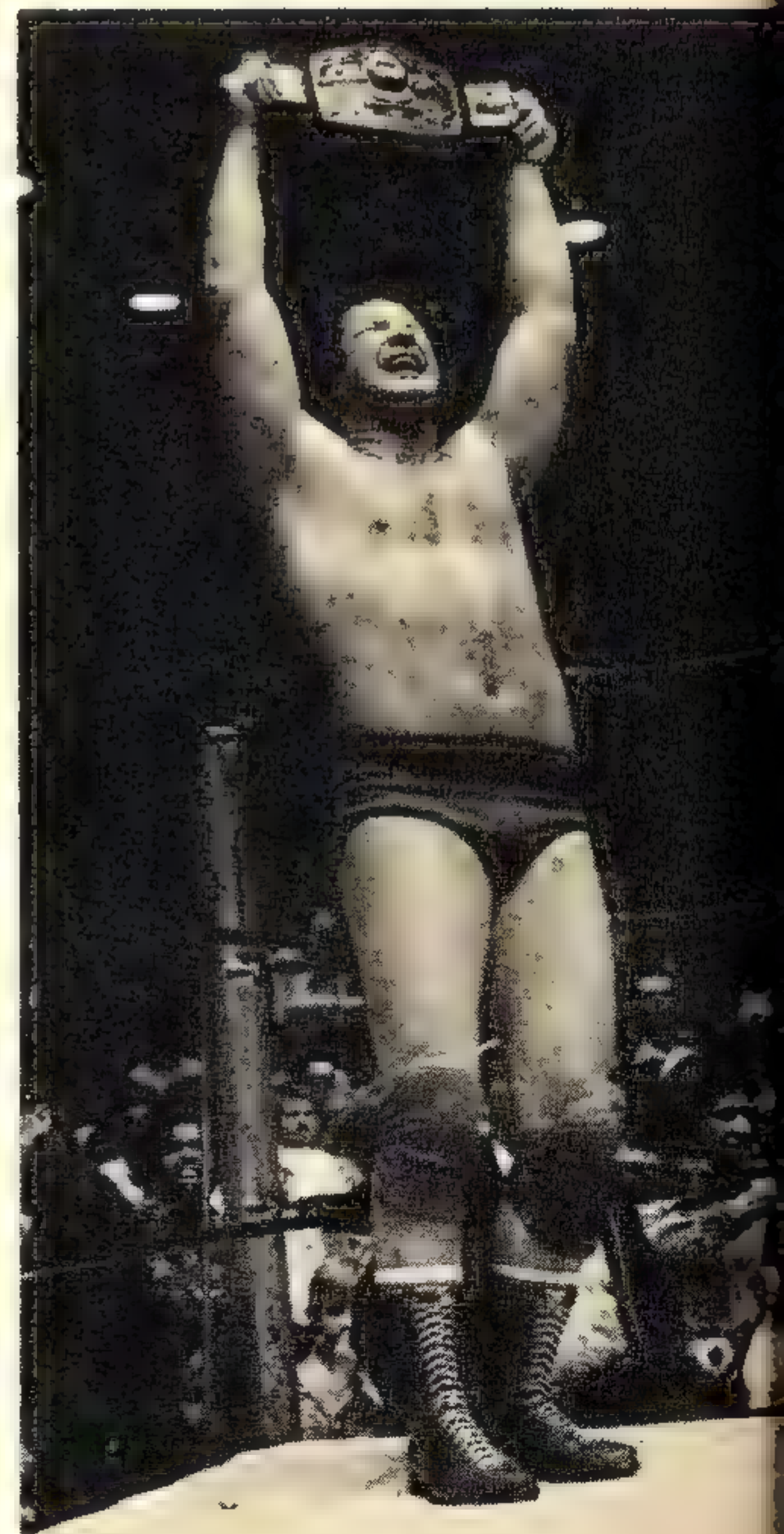
James Barnett, a representative for the NWA climbed through the ropes and informed everyone he would have to contact NWA President Jack Adkinson. Then he quickly left the ring and rushed back to an office in the arena. Several minutes later, Barnett emerged holding two contracts. The bout had been approved.

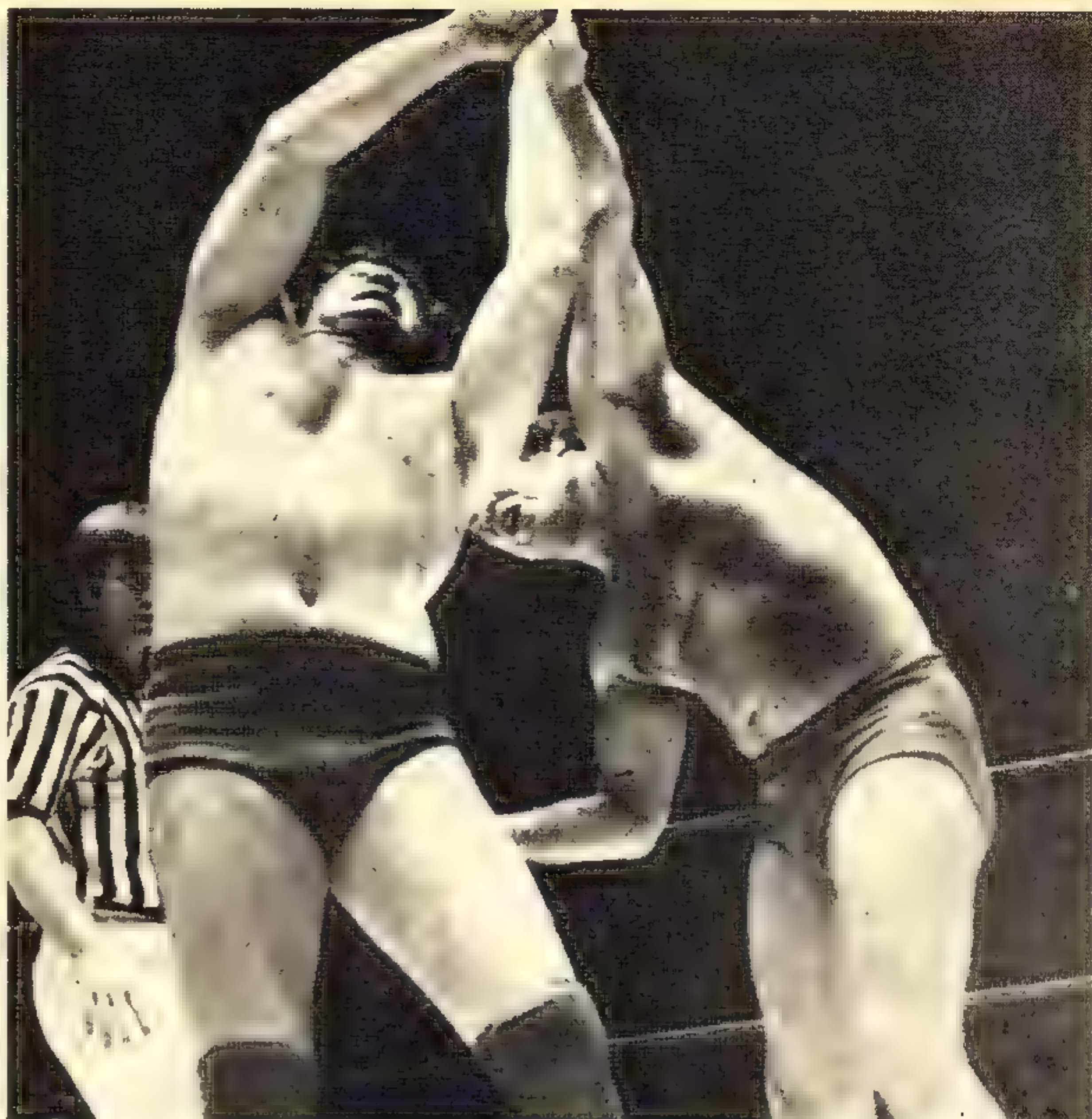
The NWA champion suddenly tensed. He had trained several days for his one fall encounter against top contender Dory Jr. Now, all the training was useless. Terry is a very different type of wrestler than Dory Jr. While Dory is a cool headed and

mostly scientific grappler, Terry is a man who easily blows his cool and likes to brawl roughhouse style. But that was not all that was worrying Jack. Terry Funk is the one man who knows how, and has in the past when they have met, reversed Jack's pet hold, the figure-four leglock. Brisco knew this was going to be a very tough match for him.

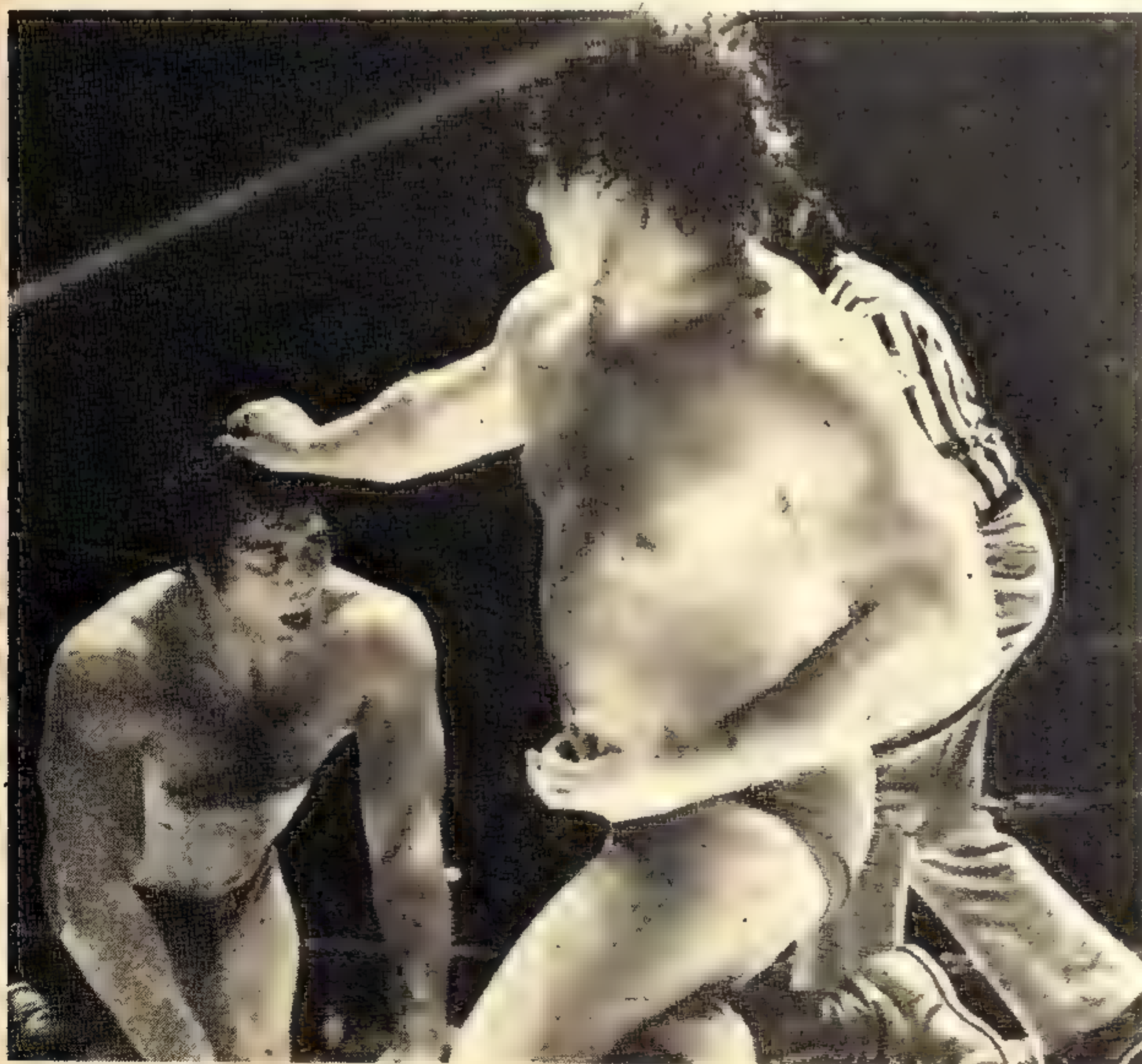
The referee gave Jack and Terry their instructions. But then neither man made the customary gesture of shaking hands. The fans were shocked when they saw both men just turn and walk away from one another going back to their respective corners. Everyone present knew this promised to be an interesting and exciting match.

As soon as the bell sounded, Brisco slowly moved out of his corner. Terry swiftly darted out from his position. The two began to stalk each other, slowly rounding the ring





Above left: Brisco can barely stand as Funk hurls him into the ropes late in the match. At this point, Terry could sense the bout was his. Above right: Funk tortures Brisco with a wrenching twist of the arm. Brisco's scream from the pain was loud and pitiful. Below: Brisco is dazed, on his knees, and defenseless to stop the volley of forearm smashes thrown by a raging Funk.



with a marked watchfulness. Then Jack grabbed his opponent's left leg, tripping Terry and sending him to the canvas. Funk sprung right back up and kicked Brisco away, sending the champion to the ropes. But Jack bounced right back, only for Funk to execute a perfect monkey flip on him.

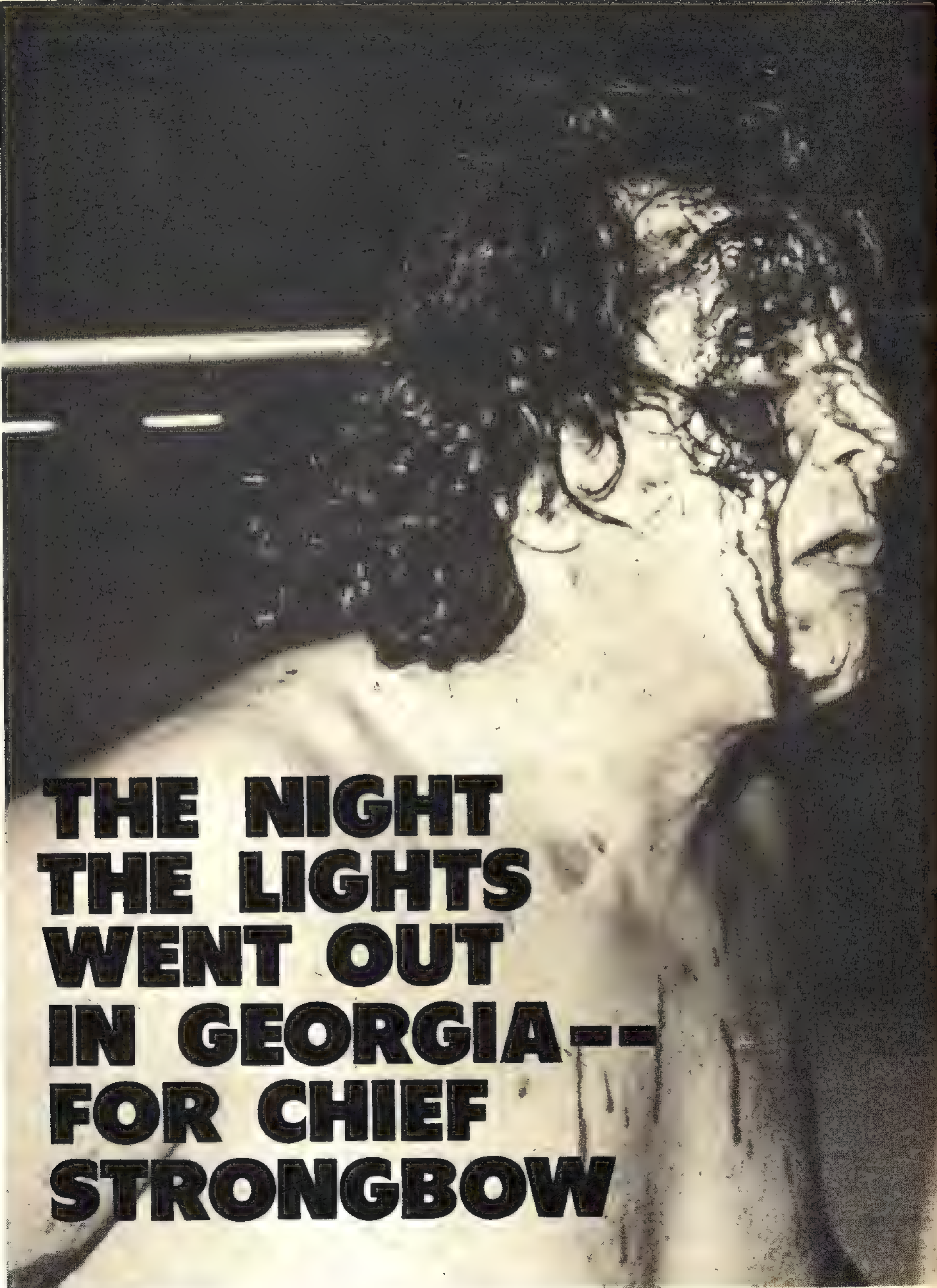
Brisco quickly regained his footing and grabbed Terry's arm to twist it. Funk could not mask the agony he felt.

In order to free himself of the hold, Terry began to clench his left fist. He threatened to punch Brisco, but the referee stepped in and warned him not to do anything like that. Terry opened the fist and then delivered a judo chop to Jack's throat. Brisco was forced to release Terry's trapped arm.

A snap mare quickly brought the challenger to the mat. He bounced up twice, only to have the move performed on him twice more. Funk looked like he was about to let his temper fly. He grabbed Jack by the hair and began punching him in the face. Once again the referee stepped in and warned, "Keep the hands off the hair and use an open hand!"

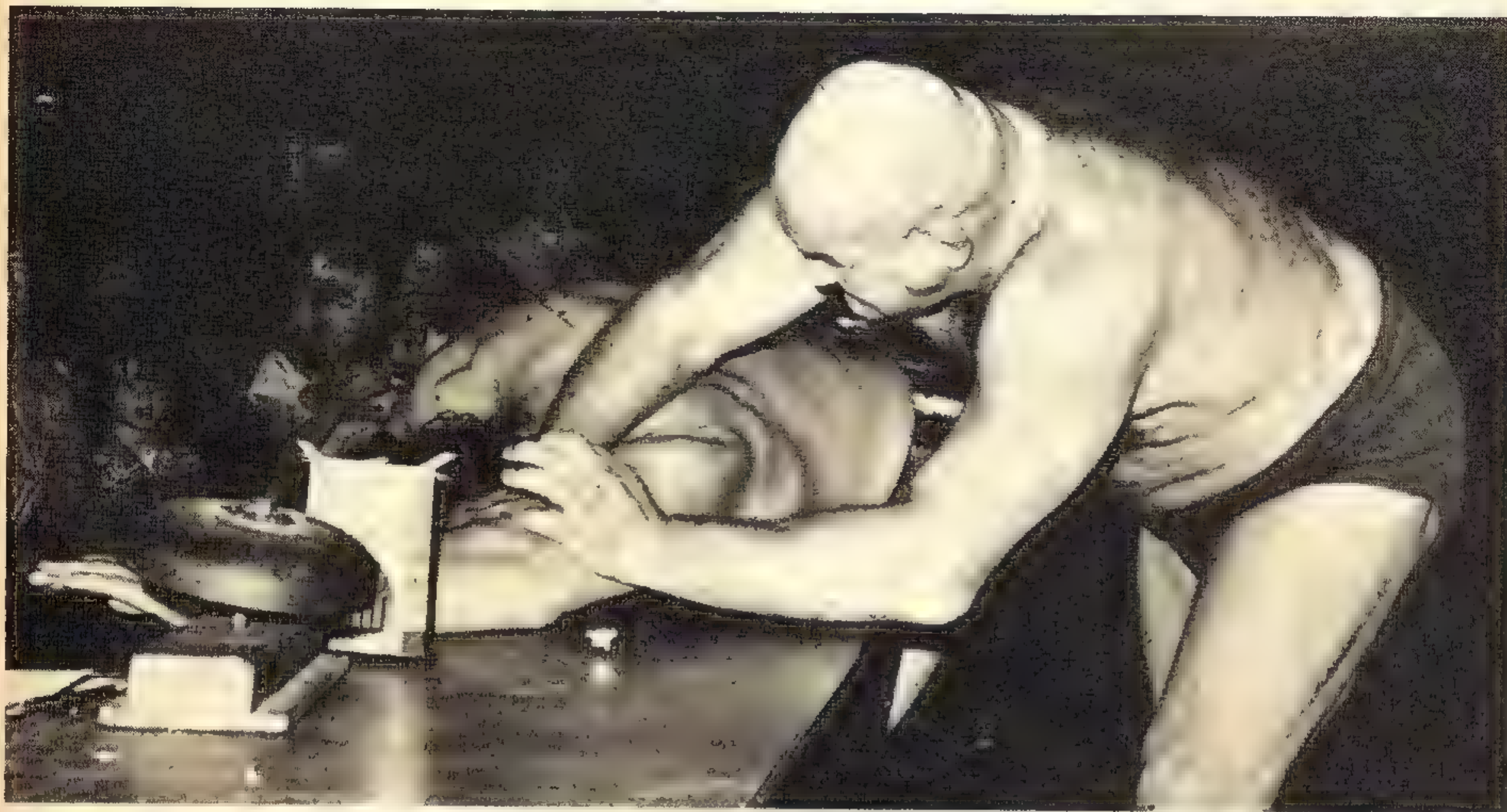
Funk flipped Brisco, then applied

(Continued on page 56)



**THE NIGHT
THE LIGHTS
WENT OUT
IN GEORGIA--
FOR CHIEF
STRONGBOW**

Chief Jay Strongbow is one of the most popular, respected men in wrestling. But can he be excused for attacking a referee?



EVEN THE MOST hardened spectators were turning away in horror. The mangled, bloody face of Chief Jay Strongbow was a terrifying and hideous sight. And still, Brute Bernard smashed the metal pipe across Strongbow's face.

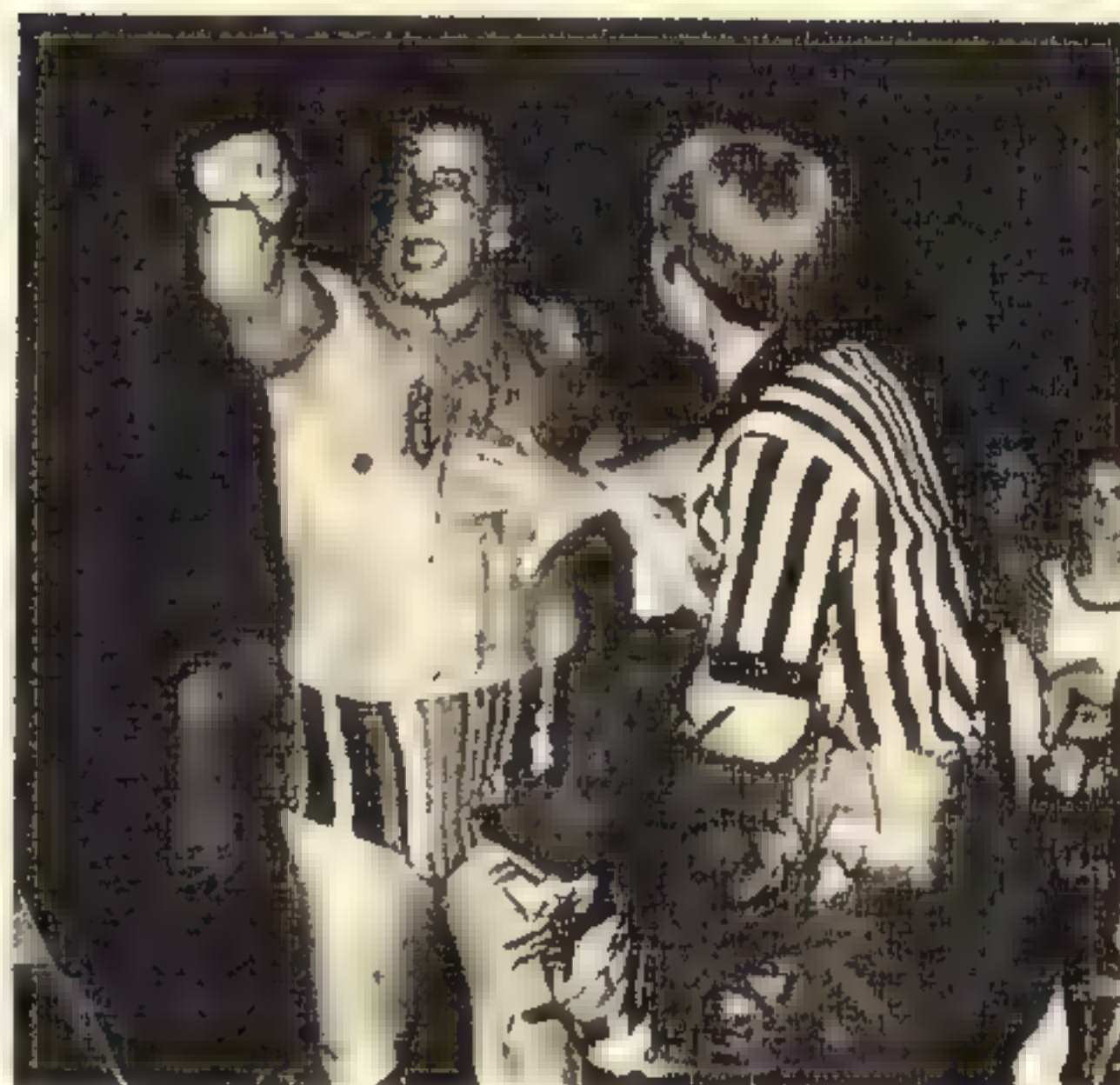
The pipe was "discovered" by Bernard when he reached under the ring. It was probably stashed there by him before the match. When the action spilled over the ropes, and the two foes continued to battle on the concrete floor, Bernard grabbed his weapon and attacked.

With the first crack of metal against Strongbow's skull, blood began to gush from slashed skin. Goaded by the spectacle of Jay's wounds, Bernard continued his inhuman attack. Only when Strongbow sank to the concrete, his blood staining the gray floor scarlet, did Bernard attempt to get back in the ring.

Most men would have been satisfied to be counted out of the match at this point and let a doctor attend to their wounds. But most men don't have the courage of Chief Jay Strongbow. Almost blinded by the steady flow of blood flooding into his eyes, seeing only vague shapes, Strongbow tried to struggle back into the field of battle. Bernard cruelly kicked Strongbow in the head as the Indian hoisted himself up on the canvas.

(Continued on page 58)

Above: Brute Bernard savagely pounds Strongbow's head into the press table. When Jay is able to lift his head, blood is streaming down his face and covering the table. Right: A bloody and enraged Strongbow demands Bernard return to the battlefield while the referee tries to make the wounded mat star return to his dressing room. Below: While the very worried referee inspects Jay for injuries, Bernard kicks his hapless foe in the head.





**Parisi and Cerdan:
SPEED,
STRENGTH,
AND THE
CHAMPIONS
OF THE WORLD!**

THE TWO MEN had never really intended to become a tag team. Their pairing was just an accident of fate. But now they are together. And they work well together. So well, in fact, they are now WWWF tag team champions.

Tony Parisi and Louis Cerdan had known each other for a long time, but had never been teamed together. However, as fate would have it, about a year ago they found each other on the same cards in several arenas. They began studying each other's styles, maneuvers and abilities. It is not known who first suggested the idea, but soon the two men decided to team.

At first the union was difficult, with neither man completely sure of the other's abilities. But after a few days of training, both began to realize how their different styles complemented. Parisi's aeronautic ring abilities could nicely mesh with Cerdan's tactical strength. The two discovered they would work well together.

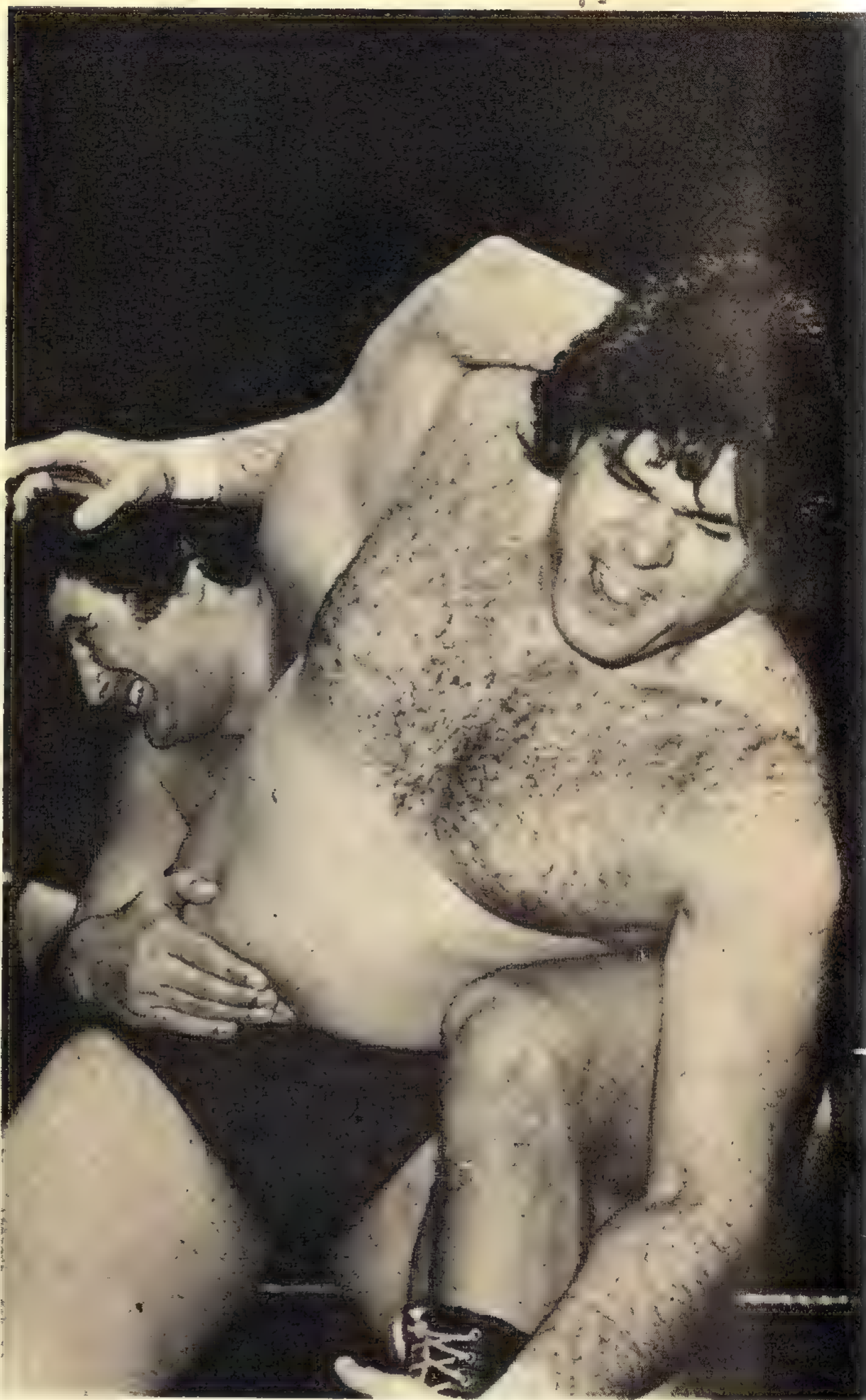
During these first few weeks of training, Cerdan was undergoing a highly significant change. Though he had begun wrestling years ago under his mother's maiden name of Cerdan, he had been using the name Gino Brito for the past few years. During this time he honed his skills, gained some fame, and relied, to a certain extent on the name Brito, since this was the name his family of wrestlers had used in past years.

He had traveled on the road for several years using the name Brito. But when he teamed with Parisi and returned to the WWWF area, Louis felt confident enough to resume using the Cerdan name.

The new team was soon ready to be tested. They fared far better than they had anticipated, winning victory after victory against formidable opponents. Then came the real test: a championship match.

Tony and Louis trained extremely hard for their match against The Blackjacks. Though they had never dreamed they would ever qualify for

(Continued on page 62)



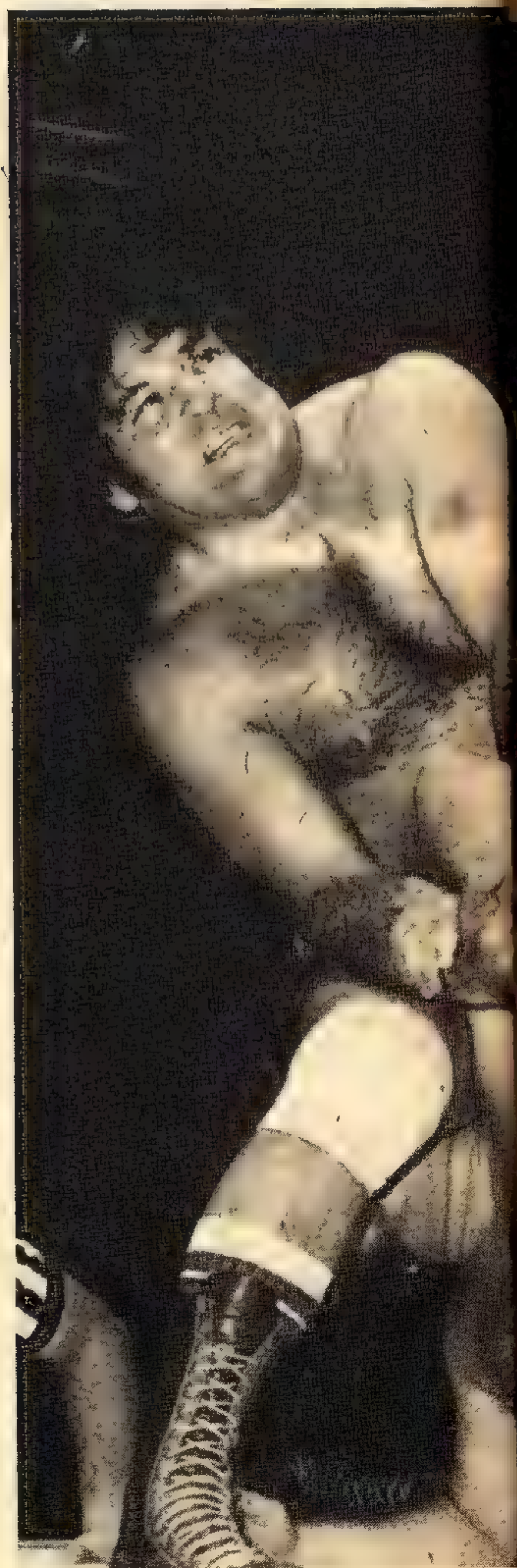
Tony Parisi catches Spiros Arion in an abdominal stretch, causing the Greek wrestler considerable pain. The team of Parisi and Cerdan is relatively new, yet the duo already holds the WWWF tag team championship belt, an honor they won from The Blackjacks.

Louis Cerdan and Tony Parisi are the WWWF tag team champions. In a world of unscrupulous animals, their success shows good guys can finish first!

He may be the greatest wrestler in the world. He thinks so . . . and he's done a lot to make believers of the top mat stars around!

WHY

FE



THE CHAMPIONS EAR PAUL JONES



Left: Jones' face betrays his strain as he captures Gene Anderson in a figure four armlock during one of their titanic encounters. Jones is determined to take the Andersons' tag team championship from them. Above: Paul reverses the hold put on him by Gene and dumps the hapless Anderson hard onto the canvas late in the bout.

AFTER THE MATCHES are over and the fans have left, an arena is a special place. The solemn quiet becomes a friend to those comfortable in its confines. It has an atmosphere allowing people to reflect and dream. On one such evening, Paul Jones walked through the arena and contemplated his future.

"I want all the honors this sport can offer," Paul declared with quiet conviction. "Whether it's a single or tag team belt, I want it. It's incredibly frustrating to know you're the best in your profession and not have the belt to prove it."

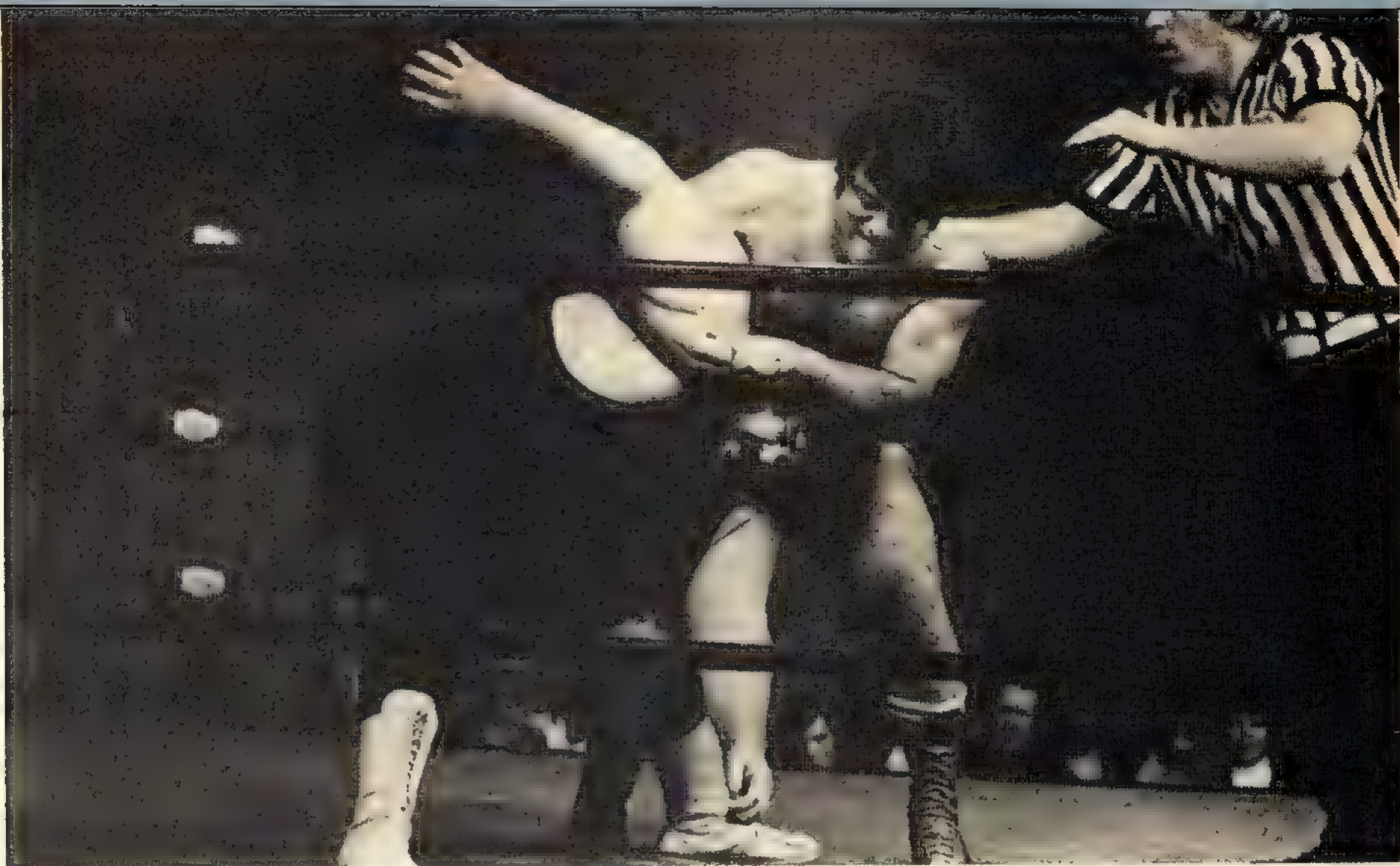
It doesn't require the majesty of a deserted arena to make Paul confess his belief in being the best grappler alive. It is a fact of life for Paul. Paul

knows he is the greatest wrestler in the world. It's as simple as that.

Dreams rarely come true; Jones has no dreams. He has plans for the future, things he is sure will happen. In the comfortable aloneness of the arena, he talks freely of those plans.

"I'm going to win every regional title there is!" Paul says assuredly. "In the south, they will speak of Paul Jones and then all the others. I will own this area like no other wrestler before or since."

"My idea is to become so famous that any champion who doesn't wrestle me will be considered a joke. Terry Funk will be introduced as champion and people will laugh: He can't be champion if he hasn't wrestled Jones!" they'll say. The same will happen when



Above: Crusher Blackwell is in agony as the victim of Paul's abdominal stretch, expertly applied. Left: The armlock is one of Paul's favorite holds in bouts against the Andersons.

they introduce Bruno Sammartino or Nick Bockwinkel. There will be no respected champions until they can claim a victory over me. But this is one accomplishment they'll never be able to brag about!

"They're avoiding me now, but they can't forever. Take Sammartino. Have you ever wondered why I never had an invitation to wrestle the great Bruno? I don't wonder anymore. Sammartino is good buddies with promoter Vince McMahon. It isn't too hard to figure out why the invitation has never come.

"It doesn't pay to be *too good* in this business. If you're an obvious threat to anyone, they avoid you like a plague. They always have some excuse as to why they won't give you a title shot. If I wrote them all down, I could wallpaper my room.

"I have to hand it to Brisco, though. He did have the guts to get into the ring with me. He cheated and resorted to technicalities to keep his title but at least he took some risk. He may be unscrupulous, but he has some pride.

"Eventually, Terry Funk will have to give me a chance at the belt. Not because he feels it is the decent thing to do—his arrogance will make him think he can beat me. I've already beaten him for the mid-atlantic television title.



Crusher Blackwell's bearhug is thwarted as Paul captures the man in a wristlock, one reason why Jones is feared by champs!

One match against him is all I need to be the NWA champion.

"From Funk, I'm going right to Bockwinkle. I'll take that guy apart. And then, Sammartino—they'll have to let me at him! From that moment on, I'll be the one champion of wrestling. The sport deserves to have one champion. In fact, the sport demands it!"

Jones also demands it. He is driven by his vision of being the best to prove himself. He knows his unproven claims sound like conceited bragging. All he asks is to have the chance to prove what he says is true. If he fails, a possibility he doesn't consider out loud, the claims of greatness will cease. Success will prove his contentions were not bragging, but rather realistic

(Continued from Page 64)

BATTLING GIRLS

THE OFFICIAL
MAGAZINE OF
APARTMENT
WRESTLING
FROM THE
PHOTOGRAPHERS
AND WRITERS
WHO KNOW IT
BEST

At last! A magazine devoted entirely to the world's most titillating, thrilling, and exclusive sport: **APARTMENT WRESTLING**. The most revealing pictures ever published of voluptuous beauties locked in fierce combat and, best of all, **BATTLING GIRLS** puts YOU in a ringside seat; a seat so close to the blazing action you'll have the feeling you can actually reach out and touch their perspiring, lush bodies. And—for the first time—you'll see what really happens when the girls get so wild they rip the scanty bikinis off each other and then continue the spectacular brawl! There has never been anything like it before. The issues have been scooped off newsstands so fast that thousands of disappointed fans couldn't find copies anywhere—for any price!

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WINTER 1975



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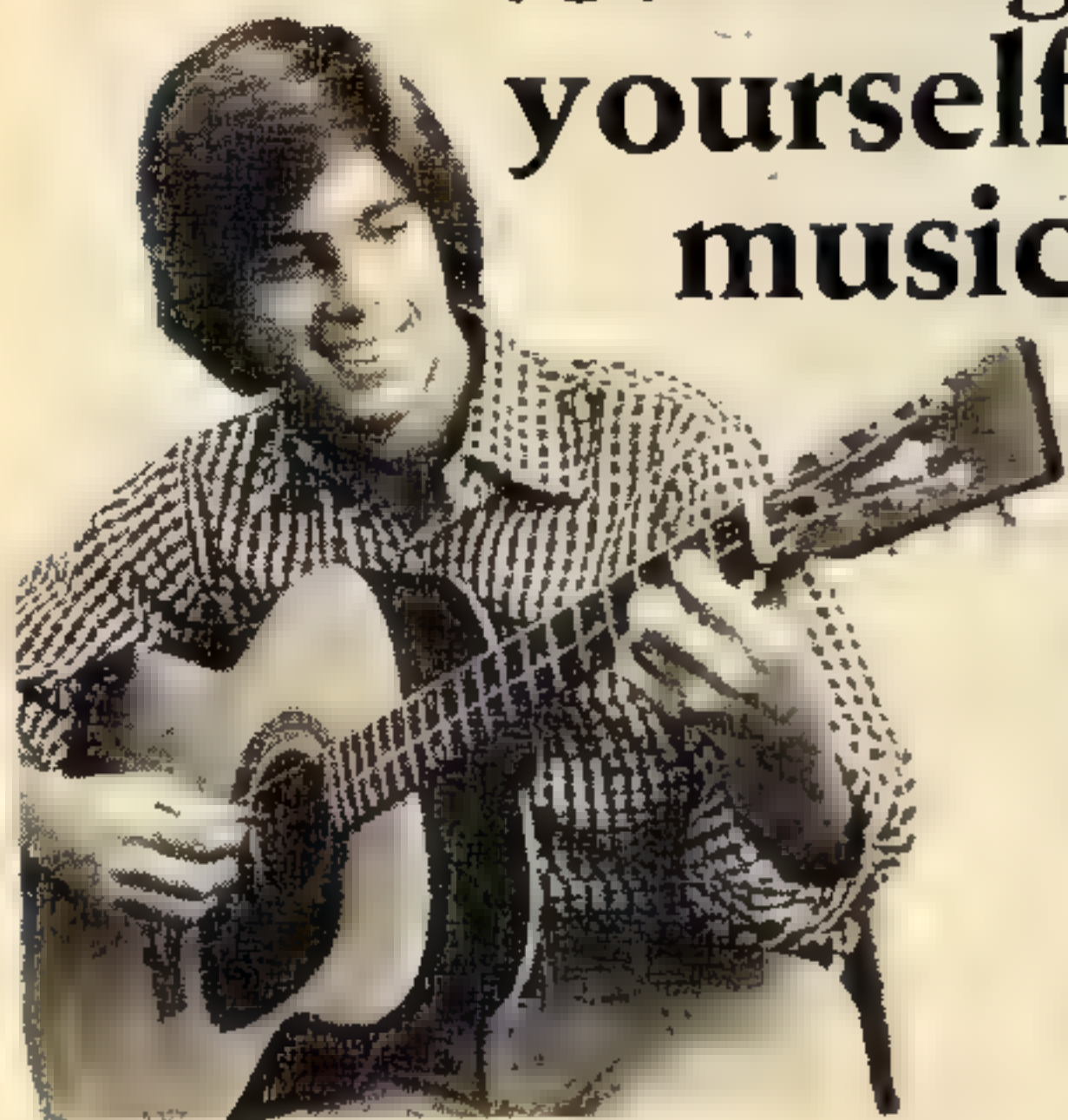
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HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING, BABY

(Continued from Page 8)



King Curtis and Big Bad John have renewed their bloody feud, which they have taken to arenas across Canada. Curtis was once a member of John's army. Dusty Rhodes also is looking for a shot at Curtis.

there with King Curtis. Curtis, once a member of John's army, betrayed him during a match and Big Bad John says he'll never forget it. He wants revenge—badly at that! Also on King Curtis' tail is The American Dream, Dusty Rhodes, as well as T-Bolt Patterson, Cyclone Negro and others. Man, we'd hate to be in his shoes!

Victor Rivera returning to WWF mat wars... Eastern fans delighted to see the return of Coco Butt expert Bobo Brazil... Nick Bockwinkle says, "I'll give Verne Gagne a shot at my AWA title if he can prove he's worthy of such a match"... Dory Funk Jr., in California wrestled "Million Dollar Rookie" Chavo Guerrero. "He's one of the finest rookie prospects I've seen in years," Dory admits... Paul Jones gave up the mid-Atlantic Television title to concentrate on defending his United States belt... Manager Johnny Starr mapping out a world wide tour for charge Ox Baker.

In one of the toughest nights of his career, Jerry Lawler won the southern heavyweight title.

"It was a tournament to determine a new champion," Lawler said. "First I wrestled Bruiser. What a rough match! I won by disqualification. Then my final battle was against Ron Fuller. I toppled him and now I'm the champion. It feels great! The world title is next!"

Jerry's manager, Sam Bass, had his hands full when he tackled the 700 pound wrestling bear, Gentleman Ben. We'll give you one guess who won!...

Bill Francis wrestling in the Oregon area... Hiro Matsuda still holding the world junior heavyweight title despite rough matches against the best in his division... The Masked Executioner rolling heads down Texas way... How about this for a team—Ivan Putski and Chief Jay Strongbow? It's a good possibility these two might put their talents together in the very near future... Mr. Fugi doing well in the San Francisco area... Baba the Giant issued a challenge to Terry Funk. Funk has accepted—now the time and place must be set, something which could take ages.

Jim Dillon has taken on some managerial duties. He is now managing The Mongolian Stomper in the Texas areas.

"My good friends Bearcat Wright, who usually manages Stomper, asked me to step into his shoes for a little while," Dillon says. "The Cat is scouting the world for new talent and had the good sense to let me watch over Stomper's affairs.

Ernie Ladd boasts, "I'm the only guy Andre the Giant is scared of. He is never anxious to wrestle me because I'm the one guy who can defeat him!"

Ivan Koloff engaged in a bruising series of matches against Ivan Putski... Steve Strong contemplating heading to WWF areas... Brute Bernard and Nicolai Volkoff still a red hot team...

Harley Race demanding a title shot. "I beat Terry Funk a hundred times," he claims.

And that's what's happening, baby!

YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from Page 18)



Former NWA title holder Jack Brisco is confident that he can recapture the title he lost.

ful?—Sheri Tornek, Van Nuys, California

A: We hope to satisfy your wishes and do a story about Reno in the near future, Sheri.

Q: Does Jack Brisco think he will get the NWA title back?—Steve Hargrove, New Haven, Missouri

A: "Yes, I think I'll win it again," Jack said. "That title meant the world to me. I'm not going to allow a Funk to deprive me of wearing the championship belt again."

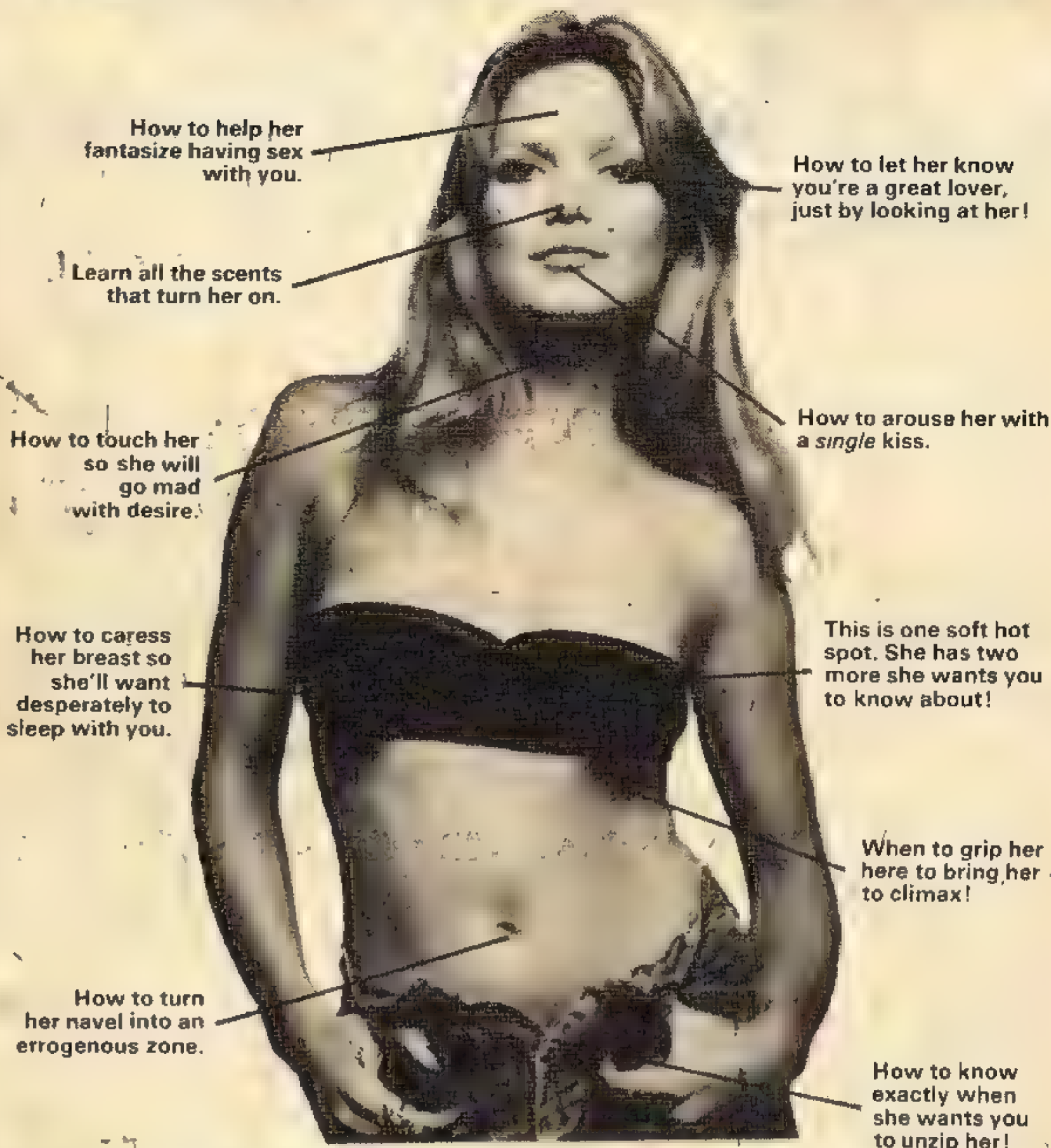
Q: Ask Mil Mascaras about the match he had a few years ago against The Sheik. Was it a frightening experience?—George Palagye, Lindenhurst, New York

A: "One of the most savage matches I was ever involved in was that match against The Sheik," recalled the popular Mexican star. "It took place in Los Angeles in 1969. He used every weapon he had at his disposal on me," Mil continued. "I fear my mask and face would be ripped to shreds. Thank goodness I was able to upset his tactics and combat him with my flying skills. It was those skills that saved me from doom."

Q: How can Bob Roop claim he's beaten Billy Robinson? I saw them wrestle many times in Florida and he never bested Bill!—Peter Klinger, Miami, Florida

A: "I suggest Mr. Klinger get a pair of glasses. He didn't watch the match too carefully," Roop exploded. "I beat Robinson 10 times already!" □

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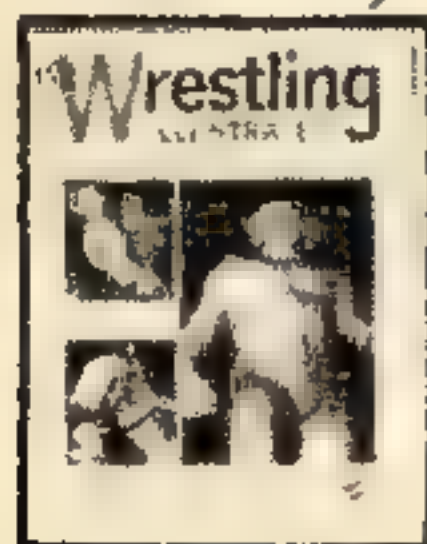
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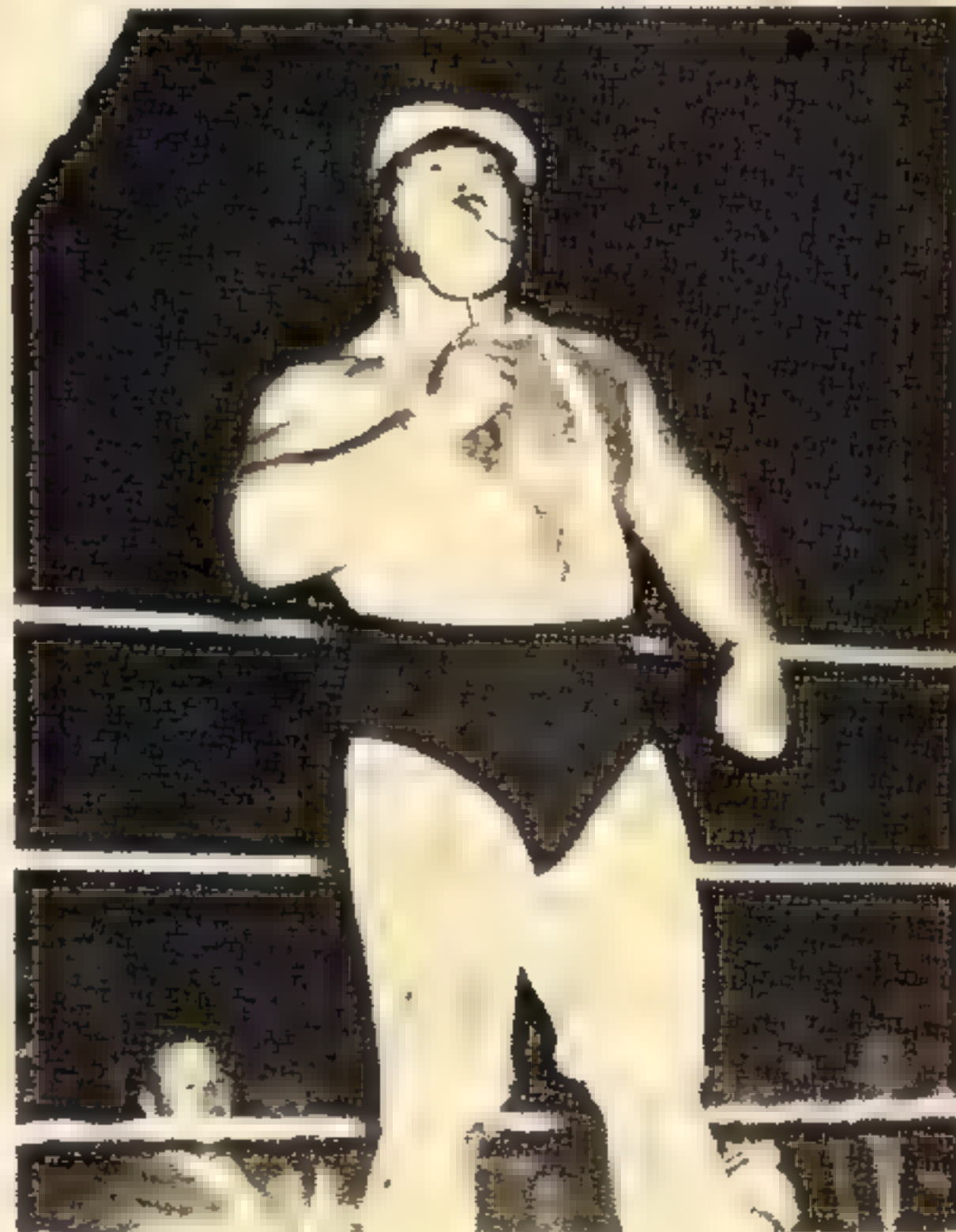
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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from Page 10)



Above: Bobo Brazil continues to thrill fans as he once again tours the nation. Below: It has been suggested Mighty Igor become the partner of the man he resembles, Ivan Putski.



giant is too great a wrestler not to heed his friend's warning.

I too have noticed how relentlessly Andre drives himself to please his fans. It is more than any fan could ask. His schedule would have long since driven a lesser man into nervous exhaustion.

Andre should relax. As much as the fans want to see him, they'd rather he be happy and healthy.

ROSA VERTINSKI
Chicago, Illinois

MAGNIFICENT MAN

No wrestling story has ever made me as happy as "The Triumphant Return of Bobo Brazil" (INSIDE WRESTLING/February 1976). As a veteran wrestling fan, I cherish many memories of Bobo's greatest matches.

Reading how Bobo is once again traveling the world to see his many fans and regain his international glory is the best news I've heard in years. Bobo stayed in Detroit far too long!

Welcome back, Bobo. Your millions of fans couldn't be happier!

FARON LAWRENCE
Oxford, Mississippi

GREATEST TAG TEAM?

I think Ivan Putski and Mighty Igor should be a tag team. They would have every tag team title in a week.

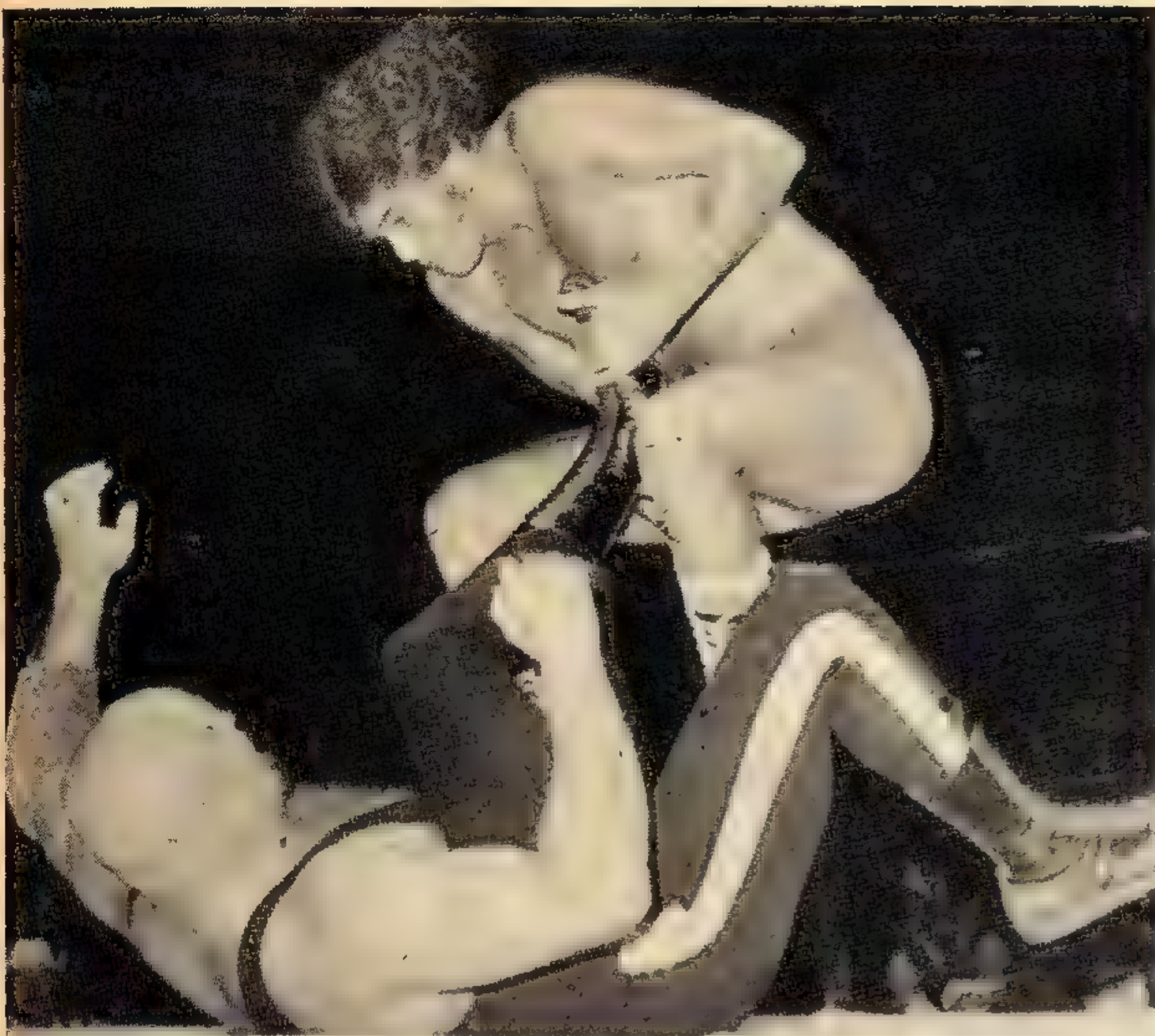
Besides being the two strongest wrestlers, they would get along well because they both come from Poland. I would love to see them beat Billy Graham, Ivan Koloff, and Bulldog Brower, all at once.

I just don't think they realize their potential.

MARK McMANUS
Westfield, New Jersey

UNFAIR ACCUSATION

Despite facts to the contrary, I can't believe Bruno Sammartino was responsible for keeping Ivan Koloff out of the WWWF area ("Was Bruno Behind Koloff's Five Year Exile?")



Though envious wrestlers are trying to end the career of Robert Fuller, fans are rallying around the brave young man. They admire his courage and determination in turning back all those who will threaten him. The fans are proving that all the jealous wrestlers in the world couldn't make them leave the side of the men they respect. It's a lesson all wrestlers should be made to learn.

[THE WRESTLER/February 1976]].

Though the reasons for the strange exile of Koloff and the odd arrangements for the first match between the two in five years make it appear Bruno was in some way responsible, I can't believe an athlete of Sammartino's reputation and integrity could do such a thing.

If we can't believe in the honor of Bruno Sammartino, what can we believe in?

CANDY ZEBRIAN
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

WORTH THE PRICE

It was very reassuring to read "Robert Fuller Pays the Costly Price of Fame" (INSIDE WRESTLING/February 1976). When the fans give their respect to a wrestler, it's gratifying to know he is willing to work for it.

Fuller is a man who has taken an enormous amount of punishment for being so popular. Jealous wrestlers have been especially brutal with him. Yet he has never knuckled under and deserted the fans.

Robert Fuller is a credit to the fans—and himself.

HARRIS FRAZIER
Boise, Idaho

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HAMMER vs. TONGS

(Continued from Page 21)



Professor Toru Tanaka uses brutal karate tactics to batter his almost senseless foe late in the match. At this point, both men are little more than jungle beasts with a lust to savagely kill!

It did not take long for the bout to get bloody. Abdullah rushed toward Tanaka, but the Professor was able to repel the attack. The Butcher went sailing backward to the ropes. Tanaka ran after him and caught Abdullah's head in a tight headlock and began to choke. But the grappler was able to break free by

landing a roundhouse punch to the Professor's stomach, causing the Japanese mat star to double over in pain.

Abdullah decided it was time to finish off his opponent. He ran to a corner of the ring where the judges and other officials were sitting. He jumped over the ropes and grabbed

the timekeeper's hammer. Then he vaulted himself back into the action, without letting the referee see what he was carrying in his hand.

Abdullah again rushed toward his opponent. Tanaka again tried to repel the attack, but this time his hand was met with the head of the hammer the Butcher was wielding. A loud crack was heard as bones were broken in the Professor's hand. He screamed in pain.

Hidden in a corner of the ring was a secret Oriental weapon the Professor had concealed before the match. Despite the pain, he was able to reach under the canvas and grab it. Abdullah came running after Toru with his hammer, ready to land a blow on Tanaka's head.

But the Professor was ready this time. As the Butcher came running toward him, Toru managed to trip the Arab grappler, sending him sprawling to the canvas. Then taking out his secret weapon, a device appearing much like either ice tongs or a hand exercisor, except much more lethal, he trapped Abdullah's head in the device. Blood spurted out of Abdullah's head from the cuts made by little hidden razors.

The Butcher did not allow Tanaka to carry out his punishment very long. Within a few seconds after the cuts opened, the taste of blood fresh in his mouth, Abdullah rose and began swinging his hammer wildly at his Japanese torturer. Soon, Professor Tanaka's face was also a bloody mess.

At this point, the referee stepped into the action and called a halt to the match, disqualifying both grapplers for using foreign objects. Doctors were rushed inside the ropes to administer the wounds. Assistance was needed to get both wrestlers back to the dressing rooms.

Later that evening, Tanaka emerged from his dressing room wearing bandages around his head and hands. He stopped to talk to the press for a few moments, but he had little to say except next time he encountered Abdullah, he would insure the Arab brought no foreign objects into the ring. Then he flashed a small smile for the reporters as he explained how he would do this.

"Next time, Abdullah won't be able to bring something in. I will finish him off before the opening bell!"

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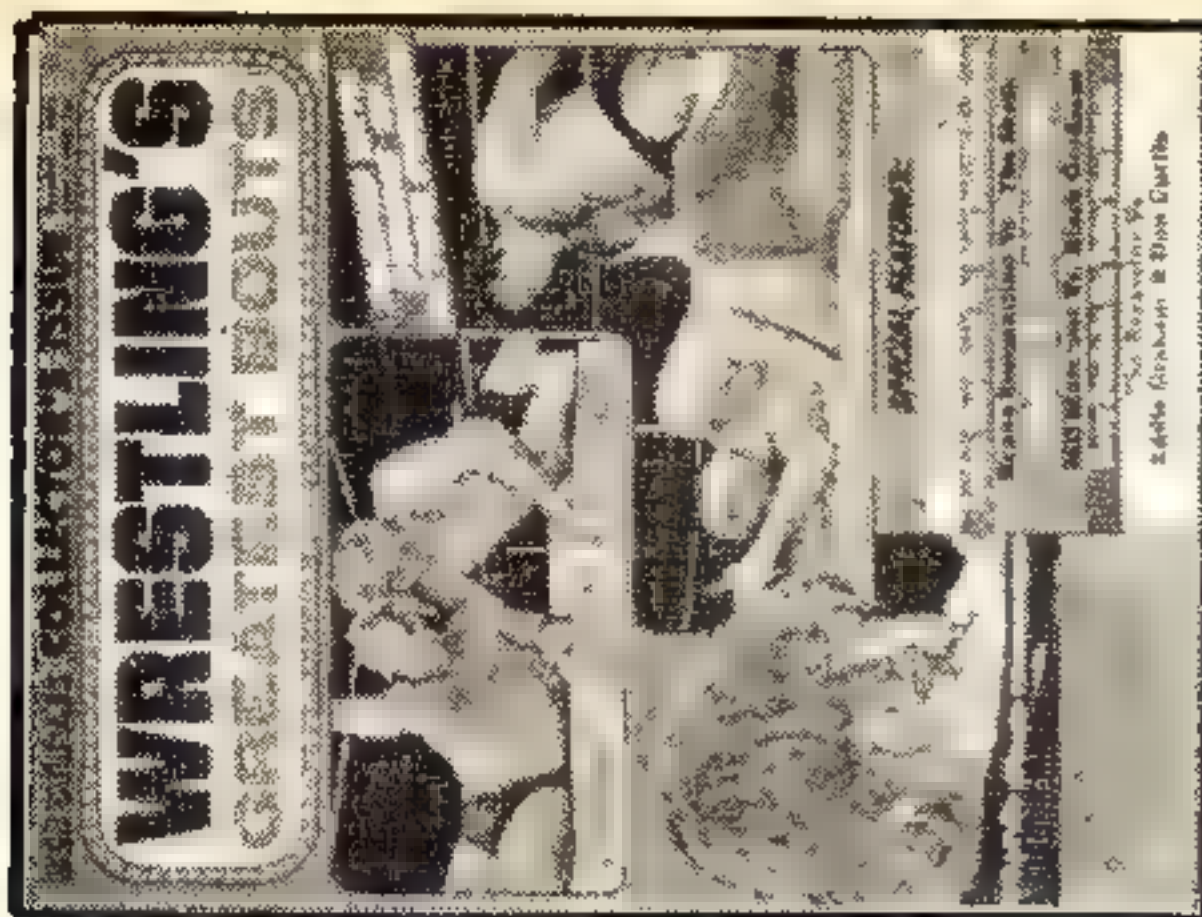
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A FEUD IS BORN

(Continued from Page 31)



Jaggers flies at Murdoch and takes a punch at Dick's already bloody head (below). Later in the contest, Bob manages to flip him over the ropes (above) and send him to the concrete.



absolutely nothing to do with why he is afraid to meet me."

Eventually the promoters were able to reconcile the two grapplers enough for them to sign contracts. However, Jaggers did not forget Murdoch's stinging remarks. He planned to prove how vicious an opponent he could be once the two met again.

Word was passed along to Dick about Bobby's intent, but he did not seem to care. "Why should I worry?" said Murdoch. "There is no way he can hurt me. He's too inexperienced to do any damage. I'll take care of him in short order."

In the meantime, Jaggers trained harder than ever for the match. He was determined to finish off Murdoch now.

News of the new feud spread quickly among Amarillo wrestling fans. The night of the match, they anxiously awaited the battle. The two grapplers sat ready in their

dressings rooms. Murdoch was calm, not really worried about what would happen in the arena. Jagers was tense, ready to explode at any second. As time grew nearer for the match to get underway, Bobby became more tense. He was ready to teach his opponent a lesson he would not soon forget.

At last the two men were facing each other inside the ropes. The fans could sense Jagers' tenseness and Murdoch's calmed assurance. The referee stood in between the two grapplers and made an announcement, the impact of which would prove to be crucial to the outcome of the match.

"Ladies and gentlemen," the ring announcer shouted to the crowd and to the two wrestlers poised for action, "it has been decided tonight's match between Dick Murdoch and Bobby Jagers will be a Texas Death Match. This means the battle will not be over until one of these two men says 'I quit.'"

Both men were surprised by the announcement, but they were not disconcerted enough to walk away from the match.

The action began a few seconds after the bell rang. Jagers moved cautiously toward his opponent, trying to evaluate how formidable Murdoch was going to be. He quickly determined he might have a few problems.

Now it was Murdoch's turn. He soon determined all the rookie's boasting was for naught. He knew he could take Bobby Jagers with very little effort.

As time progressed, it became very clear Murdoch was right. Through a series of complicated but mostly legal maneuvers, Dick gained the upper hand. Soon Bobby's face was a bloody mess. Finally Jagers could take no more of the punishment, so he climbed over the ropes and started to run back to the dressing room. Murdoch ran after him, trying to land one good solid punch to Bobby's body. However, the special police force in Amarillo, headed by Captain Elliott Levy, separated the two wrestlers before any more damage could be done.

Safely back in the dressing room, Bobby Jagers reflected on what had just occurred. He told those present he had been robbed by the referee, but he would try to take on Murdoch again very soon. "Next time," he said, "I'll kill him!" □

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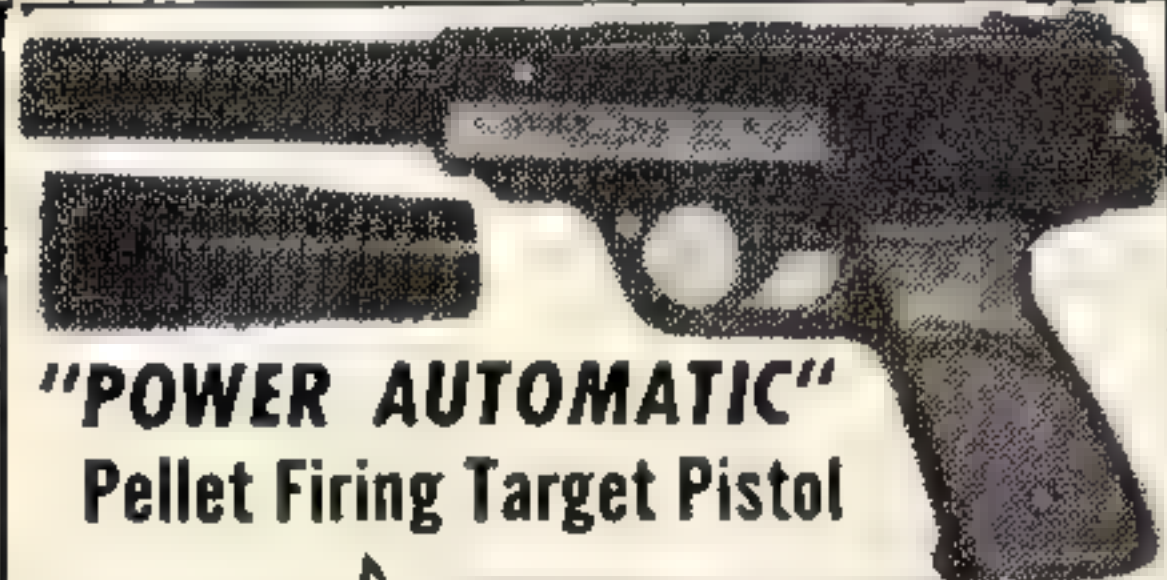
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AT HOME WITH... JERRY LAWLER

(Continued from Page 33)





Left, opposite page: You can be sure Jerry's children are delighted with his talents as an artist! Above: Jerry likes to relax with a copy of *THE WRESTLER*. Below: As one might expect, Jerry spends a lot of time primping before a mirror to look his handsomest!



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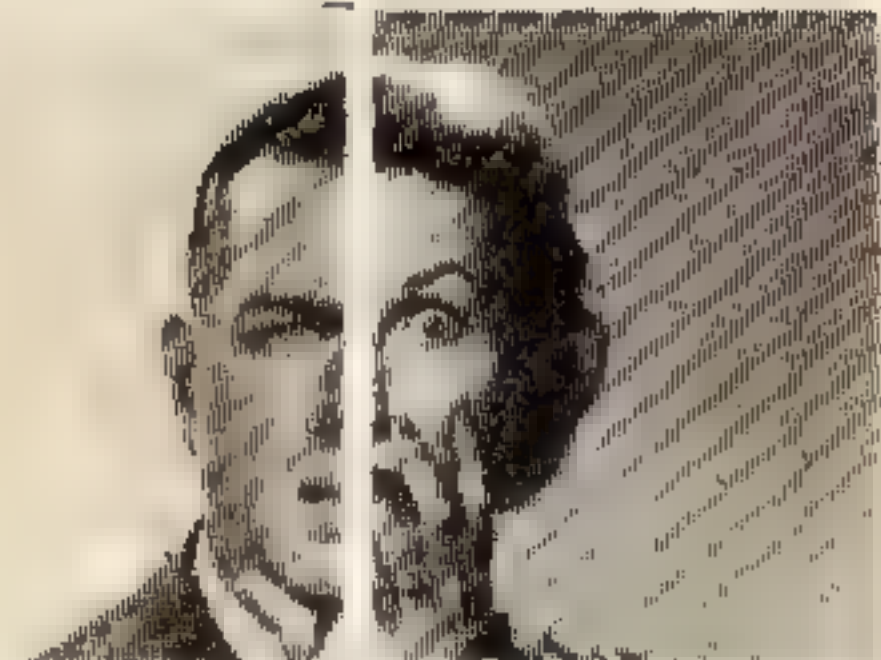
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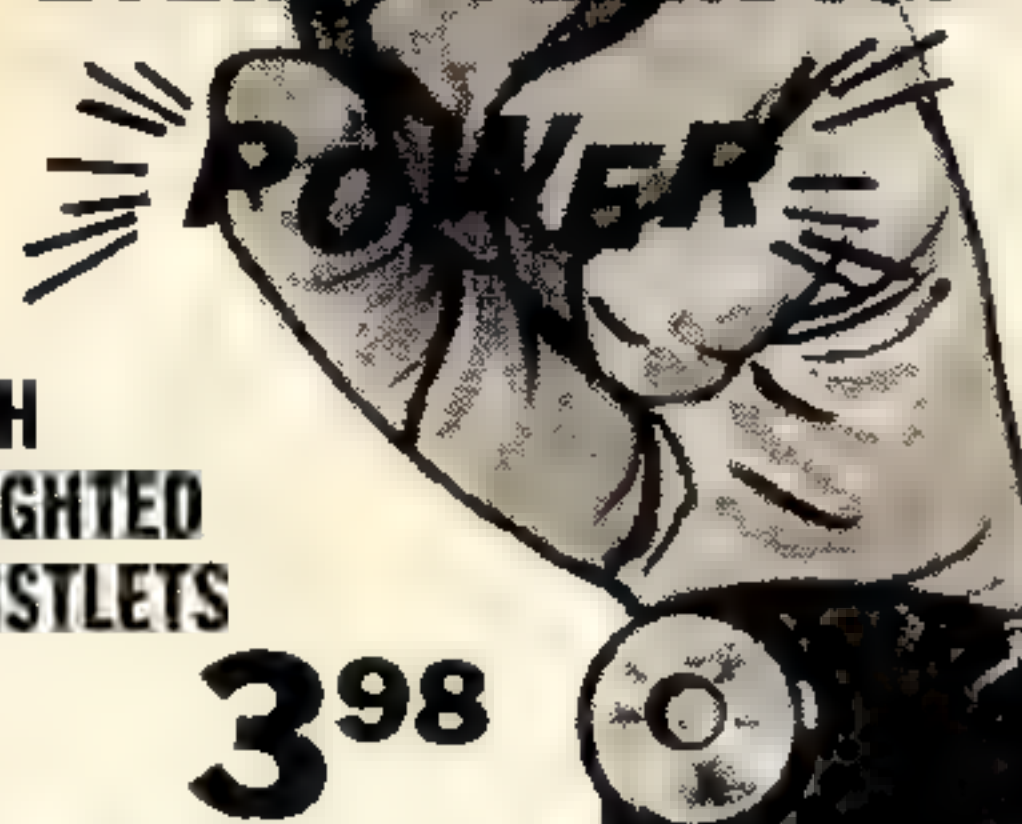
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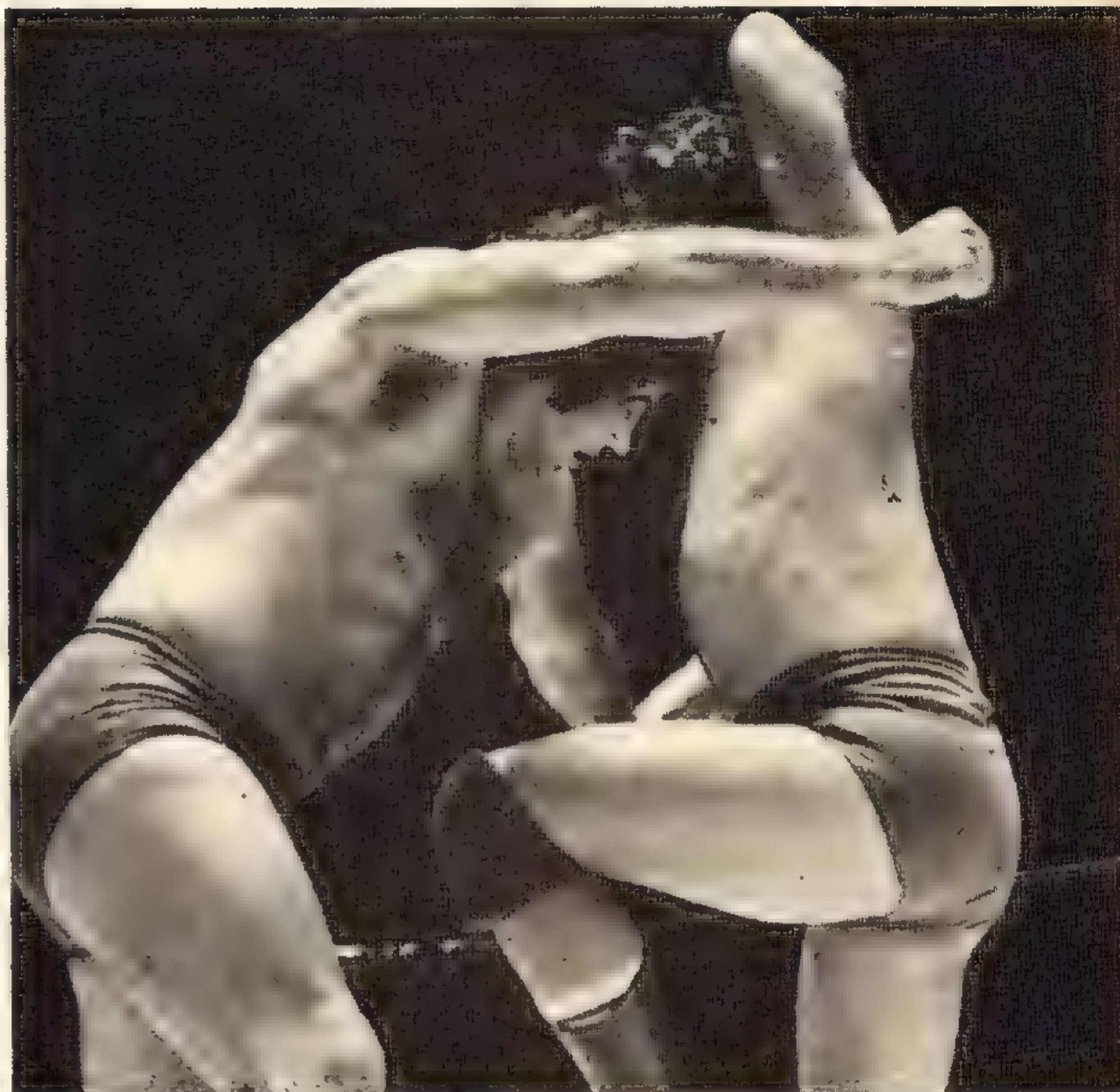
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TERRY FUNK BRINGS THE NWA BELT BACK HOME

(Continued from Page 37)



Funk, his whole body flooding with the ecstasy of victory, leaps high in the air to pound an elbow smash onto the top of Brisco's head. Brisco couldn't tame the whirlwind which was Funk on this night. Yet he never ceased trying to stop Funk from defeating him.

a punishing headlock to the champion, Jack screamed in pain, but he was still able to smash Terry in the face, forcing the challenger to release his grip. Then Brisco took command, weakening Terry with bodyslams, flying headscissors and elbow smashes. With one last elbow smash, Terry hit the canvas with a decidedly loud thud.

Sensing another victory, Jack went in for the kill—he started to employ his famous figure-four. Carefully, Brisco made sure Terry was dazed enough in order to be unable to reverse the hold. Jack moved slowly into the first move, twisting Funk's leg around his own. It appeared Funk was out cold. Then Brisco was ready to wrap Terry up in the leglock.

Suddenly, Brisco was in trouble—Funk grabbed Jack's right shoulder, knocking the champion off balance. Then Terry caught Jack in a superb cradle hold. The referee started

counting: "One. Two. Threel" Terry Funk had done it—he had won the NWA heavyweight title from Jack Brisco!

Terry released his winning hold on the now ex-champion. The referee walked over to the NWA representative and brought forth the championship belt. He handed it to the new champion, Terry Funk, who had won the title in 23 minutes, 33 seconds.

Funk leaped joyfully around the ring. The belt he had strived for was his. The championship was back in the Funk family and he was ecstatic. However, when Jack Brisco came over and offered his hand to the new champion, Terry balked. He refused to shake hands with the man he had just defeated. He turned away and ran jubilantly back to his dressing room. Jack turned away and slowly left the ring, a dejected and beaten man.

Back in his dressing room, Brisco

forced himself to answer the questions posed to him by reporters:

"What happened Jack?"

"I guess Funk just had a better night than I did," he answered. "Look, I won't make any excuses. I lost tonight. Terry Funk is a great wrestler. I have never discredited his ability and I will not start to do that tonight."

"I will say one thing: I want that title back. The belt meant the world to me. I have had a feud with the Funks for years now and losing the title to a Funk makes me want to try even harder toward the goal of getting the belt back."

In the other dressing room, a smiling Terry Funk posed for photographers and fielded questions from reporters:

"Did you think Brisco was psyched out when he discovered he was wrestling you instead of your brother?"

"Oh yes," said Terry. "I knew I had a psychological advantage to begin with."

"Why didn't you try to reverse the figure-four leglock?"

"First of all," replied Funk, "I did not think Brisco had figured I would counter it in any way. He thought I was through. Instead of trying to reverse it—and being afraid he might work a counter to my reverse—I just cradled him. He was shocked."

"Was Jack Brisco *not* at his best tonight, Terry?" asked a Miami newspaper reporter.

"Jack was as good as always. I think I just had a fine night. It was 28 hard minutes. I can't say anything bad about Jack's ability. I felt he did have the advantage for much of the time."

Finally one reporter summoned the courage to ask the important question: "Why didn't you accept Jack's handshake after the match?"

The smile disappeared from Terry's face. He looked away for a moment, then replied, "Jack has said bad things about my family in the past. I'm still sore at him. All of a sudden he wants to shake hands and forget it. Hell no! The Brisco-Funk feud is just starting as far as I am concerned. My family will keep this belt. He and his brother Jerry will never have it around their waists!"

On that note Terry headed for the showers. In front of him is a world of hard work and glory. Ahead of Jack Brisco—who knows? ☐

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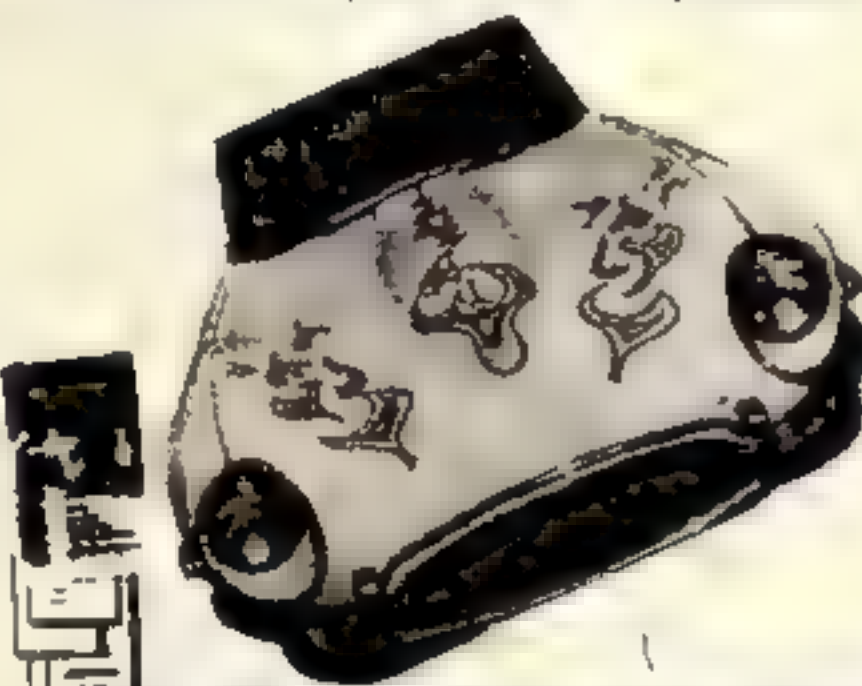
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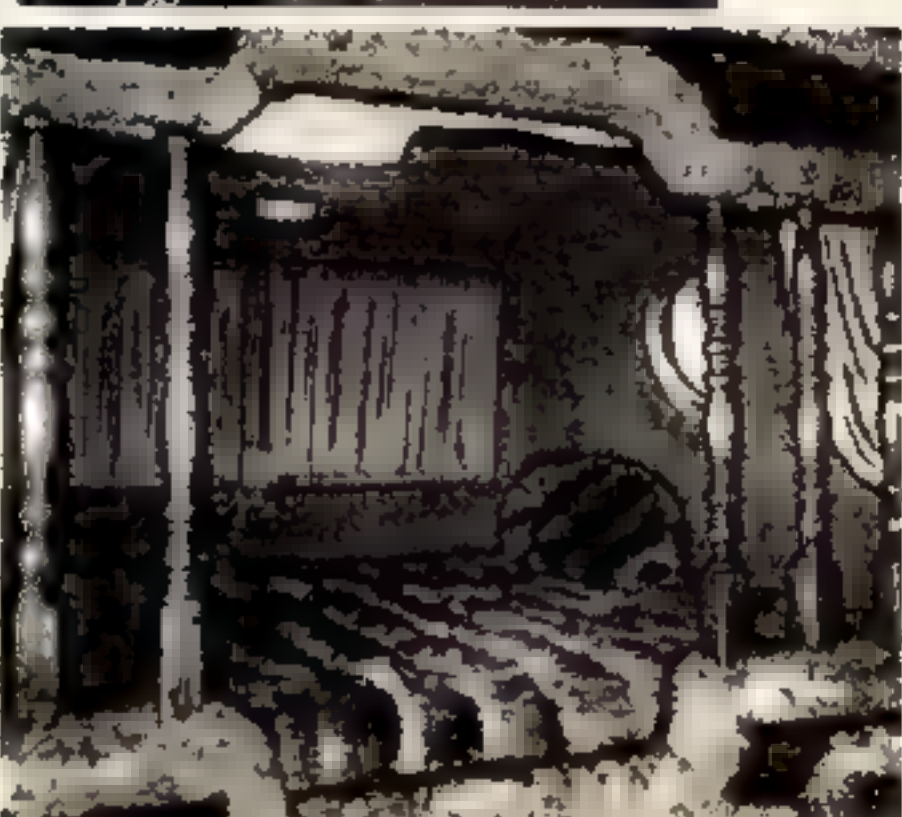


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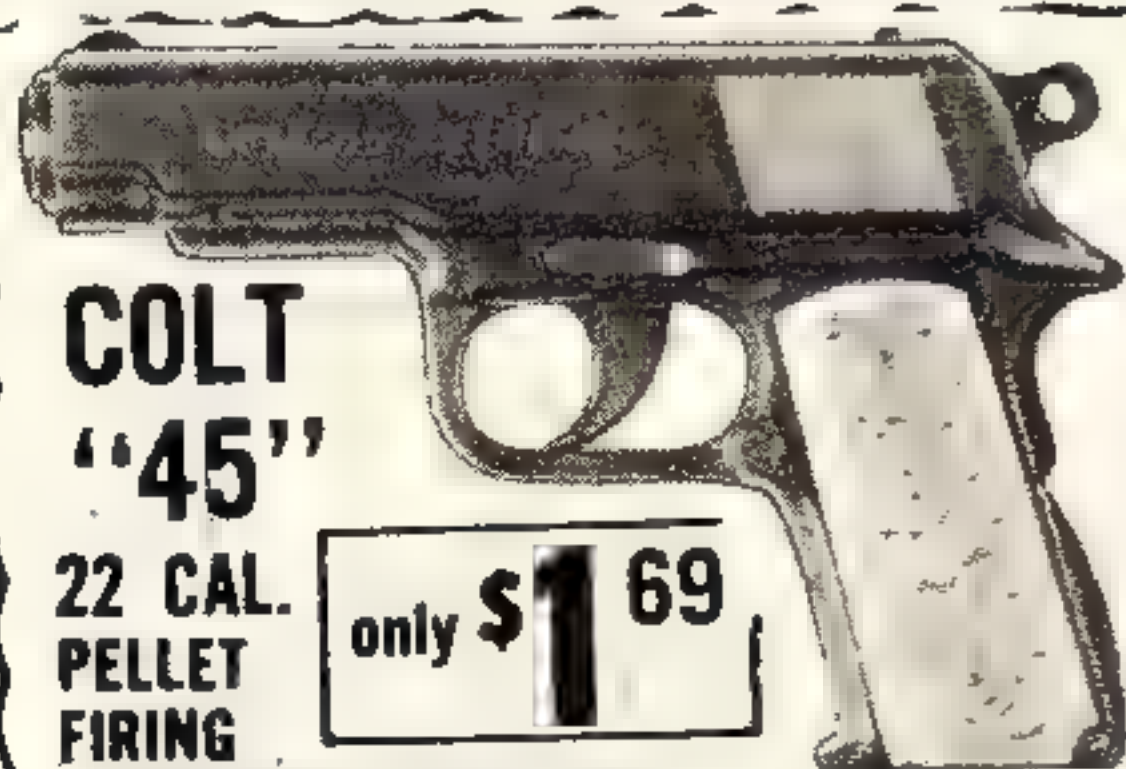


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CHIEF STRONGBOW

(Continued from Page 39)



Above: As the action spills outside the ropes, Bernard grabs a stool to use as a weapon against Strongbow. He drives it hard into Jay's hip. Below: Strongbow, enraged at losing a match he feels has been stolen from him, grabs the referee and prepares to hit the referee. Jay got control of himself before punching him.



The referee pulled Bernard off Jay, allowing the mauled Chief to return to the ring. One look at the man's wounds, however, left the referee no choice. He couldn't allow the match to continue.

"The match has been stopped due to Strongbow being too badly cut," the ring announcer intoned. "The winner is Brute Bernard."

The arena was momentarily stunned. From the look of shock on his bloodied face, Strongbow couldn't believe it either. Once the fans realized the import of the announcement, the

booing shook the arena. Strongbow refused to acknowledge the referee's decision. He tore after Bernard—who tore back to the dressing room.

"Come back!" Strongbow yelled at the fleeing form. "Wrestle like a man! Come back!"

Moments after he had disappeared, Bernard returned to the arena. He came armed with a large wooden plank. If Strongbow was hit only once with this weapon, the damage could be fatal.

"Get him back in that dressing room!" the referee screamed at the



Blood gushing from gaping cuts, Strongbow stumbles around as he tries to formulate a plan.

special police. "Hurry!"

It was no sooner said than done. A wall of blue uniforms separated Bernard from the rest of the arena.

"Let him go!" Strongbow shouted at the referee. "Give me a chance to get even!"

"The match is over!" the referee shouted back as he stepped between Strongbow and Bernard's dressing room.

Pain and anger overwhelming his common sense, Jay rushed at the referee. The two men scuffled for a few moments until the grappler realized, with shame, what he had done. No matter what happens in a match, Strongbow knows there is no excuse for hitting the referee. The Chief is too fine a professional for that kind of despicable display.

Ashamed, Strongbow went back to the dressing room. The doctor accompanied him. It would take eight stitches to close the wound. After the operation, Strongbow asked to make a statement to reporters.

"I didn't mean to attack the referee," he declared, "I want that much understood. I lost my temper and wanted only to get even with Bernard. It was a mistake. I won't make it again—I hope."

"I also hope the referee learns what the word 'disqualification' means. Bernard should have been disqualified for about a dozen things. I couldn't believe it when he awarded Bernard the victory. There's no excuse for that kind of nonsense. It's dangerous to let maniacs get away with things like that. I might have been killed!"

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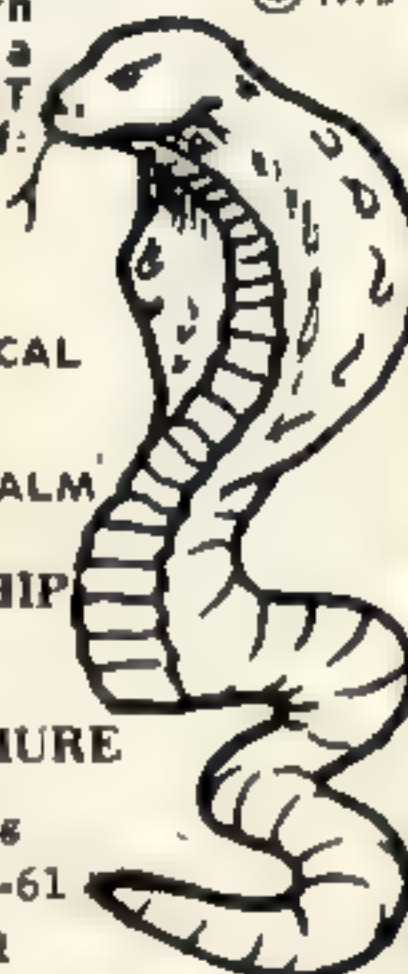
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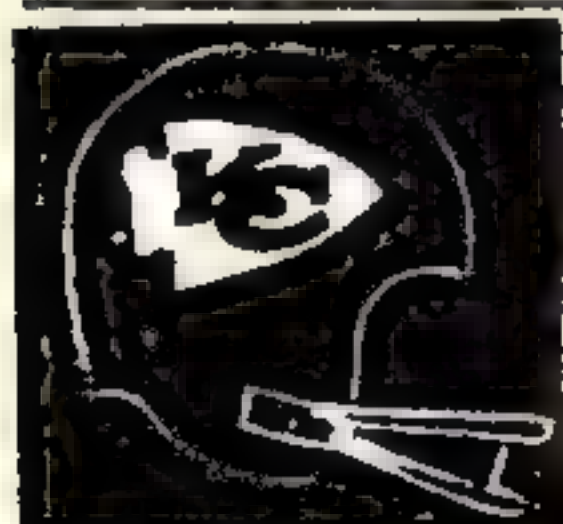
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CORRESPONDENT REPORTS

(Continued from Page 12)



WWWF champion Bruno Sammartino and the self-proclaimed "King of Wrestling" Ernie Ladd (above) had a very brutal match recently in Philadelphia. Handsome and exciting newcomer Kevin Sullivan (below) was the victor in his hard battle against Johnny Rodz.



There was mayhem inside the ring with the two titan grapplers waging a battle of give and take. Many times it appeared Ernie was about to defeat the champion, but somehow, Bruno kept managing to escape Ladd's vise-like grips.

The end of the brutal battle came after 13 minutes of intense action. Sammartino was able to throw the 300 pound Ladd over the ropes and into the audience. Ernie grabbed a chair and climbed back inside the ring. He started to bash the seat over Bruno's head. For a few tense moments it appeared Sammartino was about to crumble. Then he caught one of the chair's legs. With a sudden burst of strength, Bruno wrested the chair from Ernie, and started banging the object on various parts of Ladd's body. Finally the champion broke the chair over Ernie's head, and the challenger slumped to the floor.

In other Philadelphia action, a bleeding Ivan Putski came back to win his match with Spiros Arion. First Arion, then Ivan, used a foreign object to inflict wounds on the other wrestler . . . Bugsy McGraw destroyed Francisco Flores in a brutal match . . . Kevin Sullivan was the victor in his battle with Johnny Rodz . . . The tag team of Louis Cerdan and Antonio Parisi drew with Ivan Koloff and Superstar Billy Graham. □

able to overcome Riddle with a painful backbreaker across his knee.

In other action, Modesto's uptown arena saw Jerry Monti beaten by Bobby Jaggars in a brutal, exciting match . . . El Gran Markus and Mablo Cardoza teamed together to try and defeat Don Muraco and Mr. Saito. However, things did not go as planned for Markus and Cardoza, and they lost to their opponents.

PHILADELPHIA FREEDOM By Gregory Cole and Barry Levine

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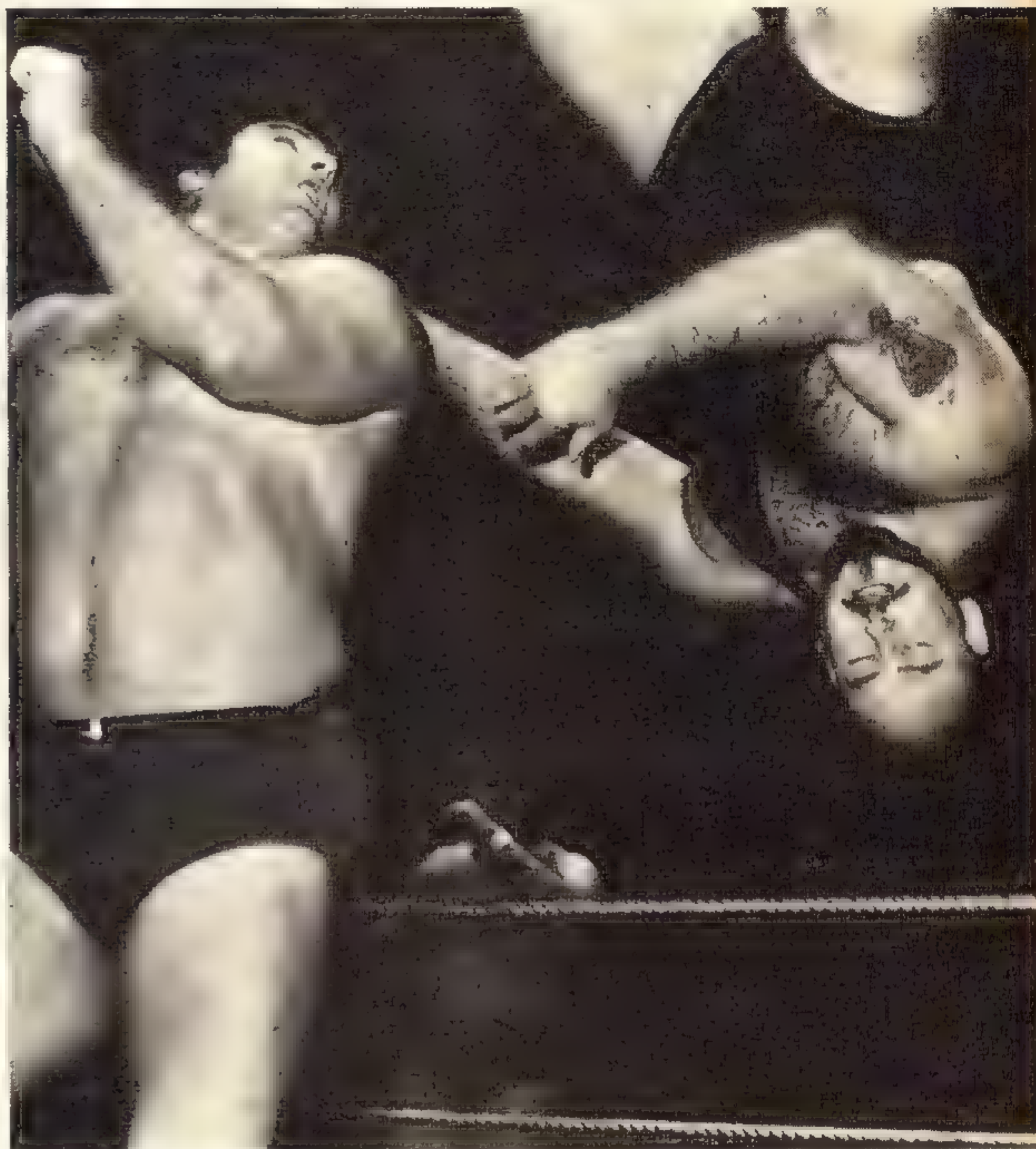
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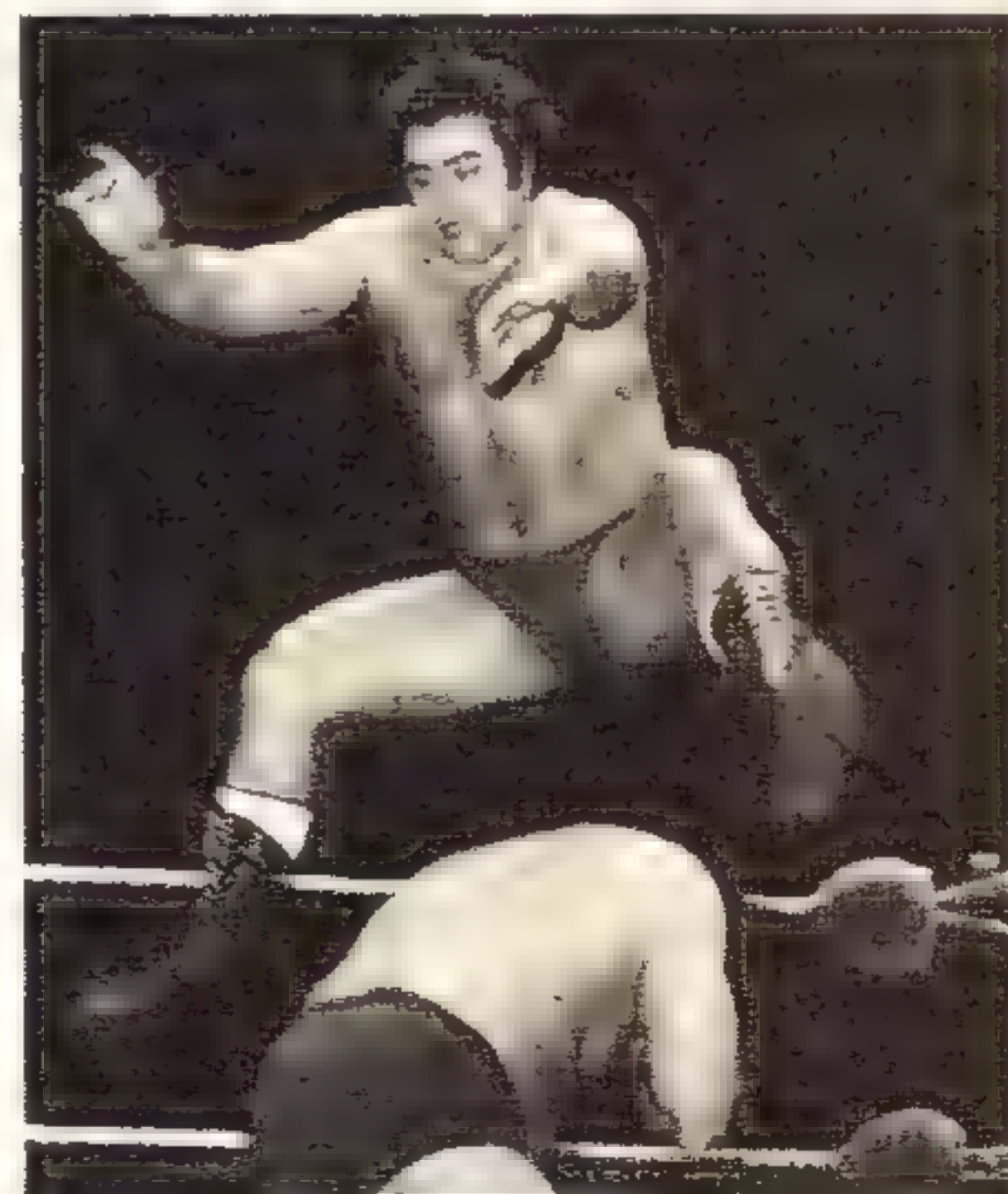
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Parisi and Cerdan

(Continued from Page 41)



Above: Louis Cerdan successfully executes a maneuver, flipping the Russian grappling star Ivan Koloff to the canvas. Below: Tony flies over the head of Spiros Arion, completely surprising the Greek grappler. Tactics like this helped the team win its title.



a chance at the championship when they first teamed together, Parisi and Cerdan felt they were now on the threshold of the title. Their confidence soared as they trained for the battle.

The championship match was almost anti-climatical. Their training had been so rigorous they discovered they would have little trouble defeating their opponents. And indeed, in very little time, they were wearing the belts proclaiming them WWWF tag team champions.

Cerdan and Parisi were determined to bring honor back to the title, making the fans proud and delighted to see the champions wrestle. They easily defended their title a few times, and their popularity steadily grew in return.

About the time Cerdan and Parisi were winning the tag team championship, another team was forming—Spiros Arion and Ivan Koloff. They were not terribly intent upon staying together as a team, but they did seem to know a few tactics, somewhat above legality, they could jointly use on opponents.

It was somehow determined the team of Parisi and Cerdan should battle Arion and Koloff in a title match. Neither team had many worries about its ability to beat the other.

The spectators roared their approval for Parisi and Cerdan as the duo entered the arena. It took five minutes for the crowd to calm down after the tag team's entrance. Finally Arion and Koloff entered. They heard nothing but polite (and some not-so-polite) acknowledgment of their presence. It was not difficult to see where the fans' sympathies lay.

When the bell rang, Tony Parisi was confronted by Ivan Koloff. They stalked each other for a few minutes; then Koloff tried to mount an attack. Parisi was able to repel the onslaught, though he barely managed to escape from one of Koloff's bearhugs. He slipped back to his corner and tagged his partner.

Cerdan gave Koloff a difficult battle. The Russian grappler could barely withstand the attack. Finally, Koloff got to his corner and tagged Arion. Louis went back and tagged Tony.

Parisi and Arion grappled for a few minutes, with the advantage changing back and forth between the two wrestlers. When Tony was able to hang onto the lead for a sustained time, he executed a dropkick, sending Arion to the floor. Before the Greek grappler could reach his partner for a tag, the fall had been awarded to Cerdan and Parisi.

The next few minutes proved as devastating to Arion and Koloff as the first few. Some excellent maneuvers on Parisi's part enabled the champions to win the second fall, and thus retain their WWWF title.

For now, Parisi and Cerdan are going to relax for a short while, refraining from too much active competition while they perfect newer and better techniques for overcoming opposition. "This is because we want to keep other wrestlers guessing as to what we are going to do next," explained Tony. "If we just continue doing the same maneuvers every time we wrestle, other teams would catch on to our tricks, and we would lose the belts very quickly. By changing our tactics, no one will ever be able to out-guess us!"



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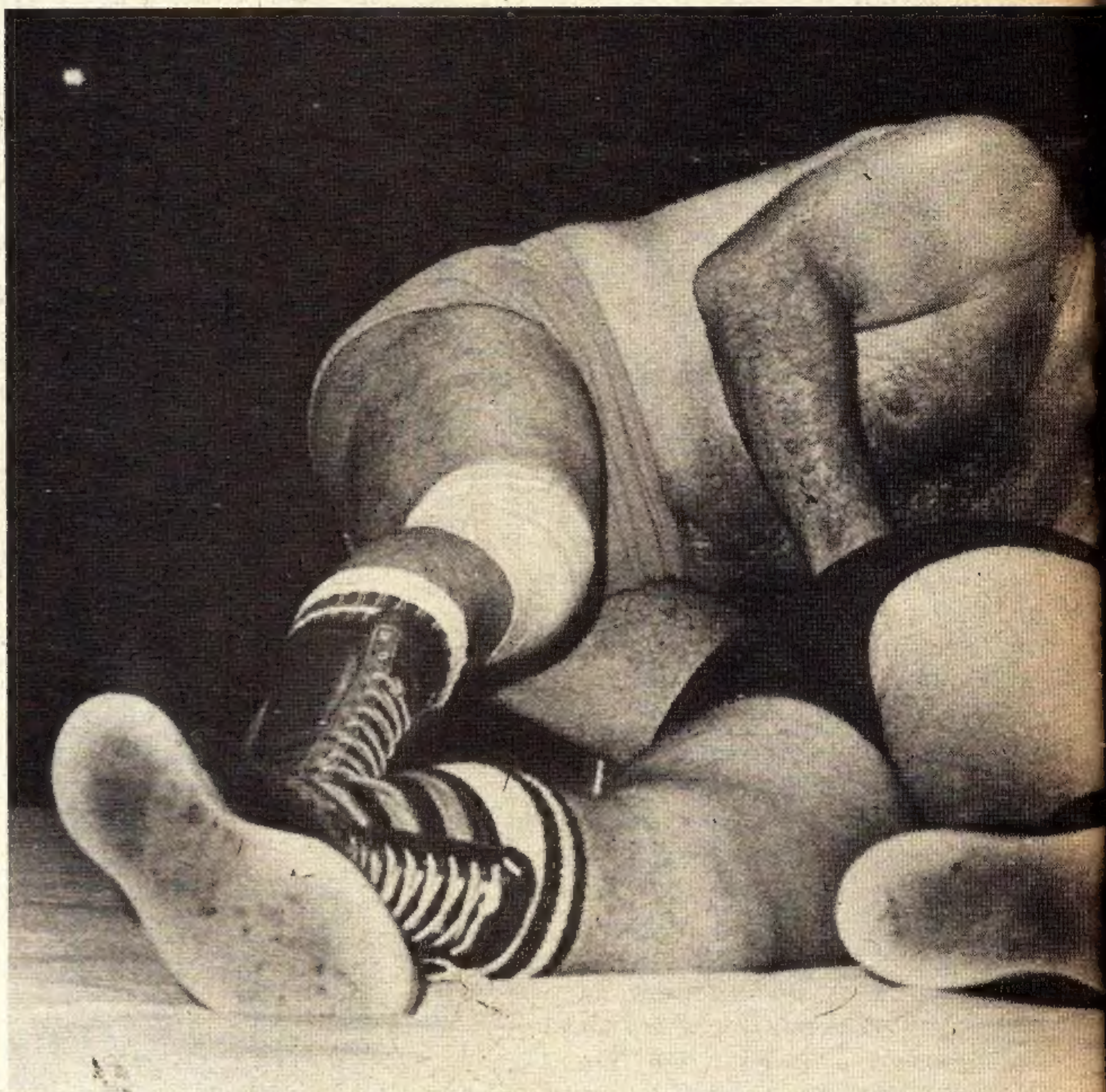
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PAUL JONES

(Continued from Page 45)



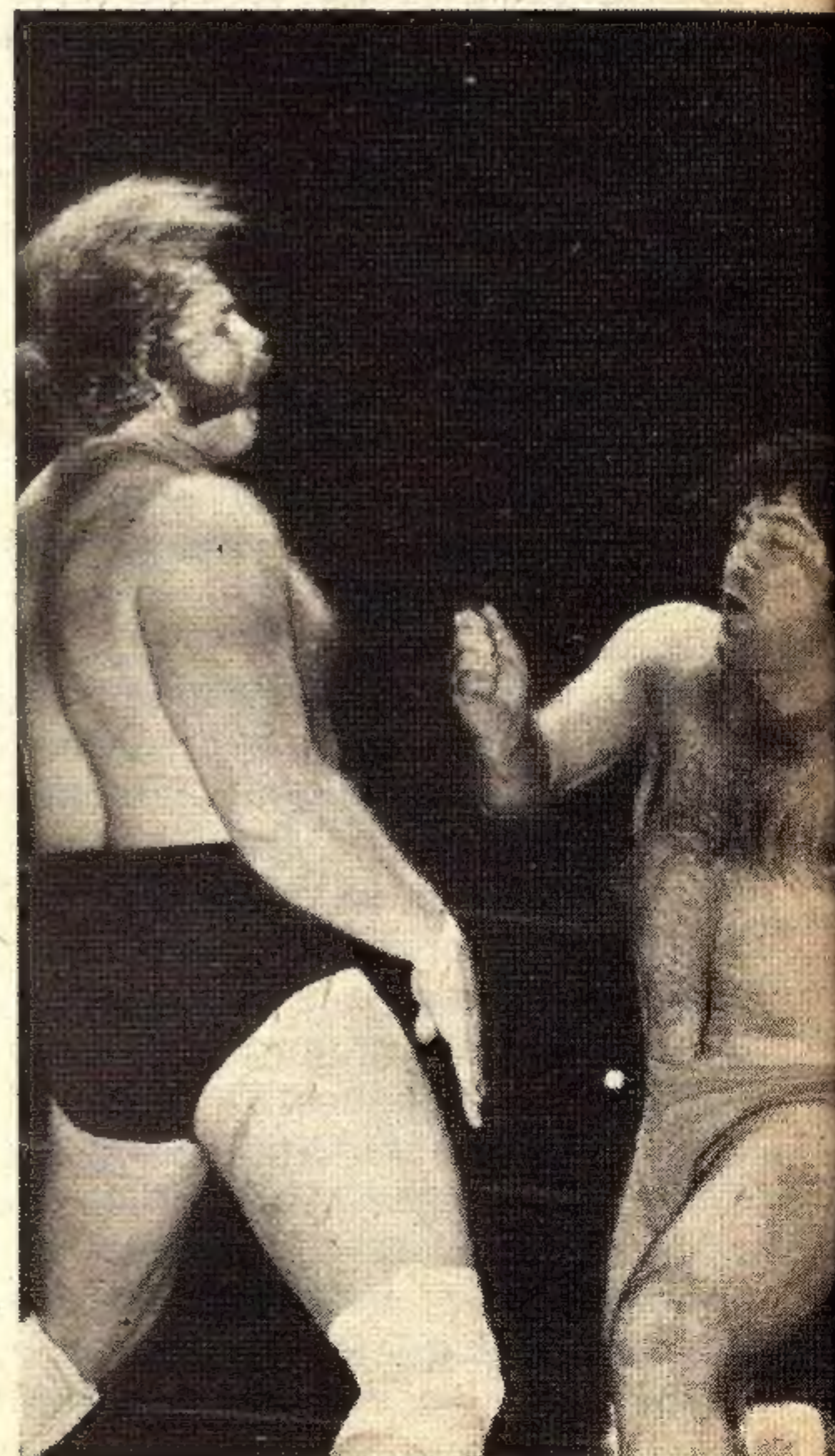
All the squirming in the world can't break Paul's armlock on Gene Anderson (above). When brother Ole illegally enters the ring and saves Gene, Paul punishes him by sending him reeling across the canvas with a hard forearm smash (right).

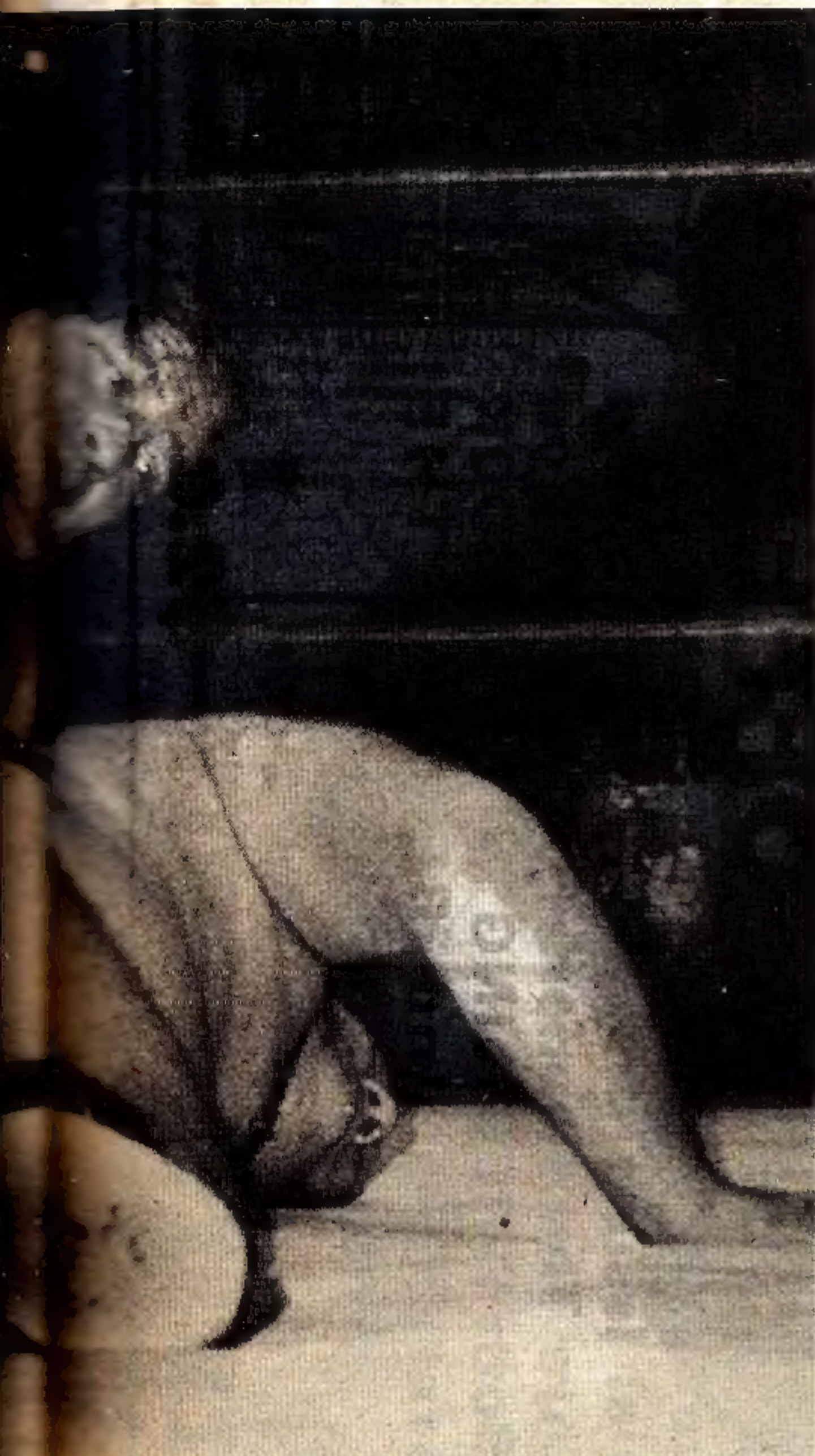
observation.

However, Jones considers even being the best mat star in the world a limited ambition. After conquering all those who dare meet him in single competition, Paul wants to win the tag team title, also.

"With Wahoo McDaniel," he declares, "we'll take every tag team title in the world. Together, we're the best. We can out-wrestle any scientific team and conquer any rulebreakers. Those who have seen us know I'm not being conceited; it's the simple truth.

"I'll admit to being lucky in finding Wahoo. Together, we form the perfect wrestling machine. Actually, we're better than machines—we think as we work. If one plan fails, we can improvise a successful alternative on the spot. It's an exciting thing to be a





part of. It makes all the hassles of being a wrestler worthwhile. It was worth struggling for all these years."

This evening, Paul wasn't interested in discussing the years it took him to achieve his current popularity and status. All the struggles, the brutal traveling, the disappointments, and the insults were forgotten. He was looking ahead tonight and the future was his.

Paul discussed his career for more than two hours. At the end, he was a little sheepish about revealing so much for so long. He hadn't intended to do it. He appeared slightly embarrassed as he shook hands and left.

Paul got into his car, easily found in the almost deserted parking lot. The southern evening's dark warmth seemed to invite a long drive. Jones looked like he was happy to go nowhere in particular as he left the parking lot.

However, one night's excursion won't keep him from his destination. Paul Jones knows exactly where he wants to go and how he wants to get there. All he is asking for is the chance to make it happen. □

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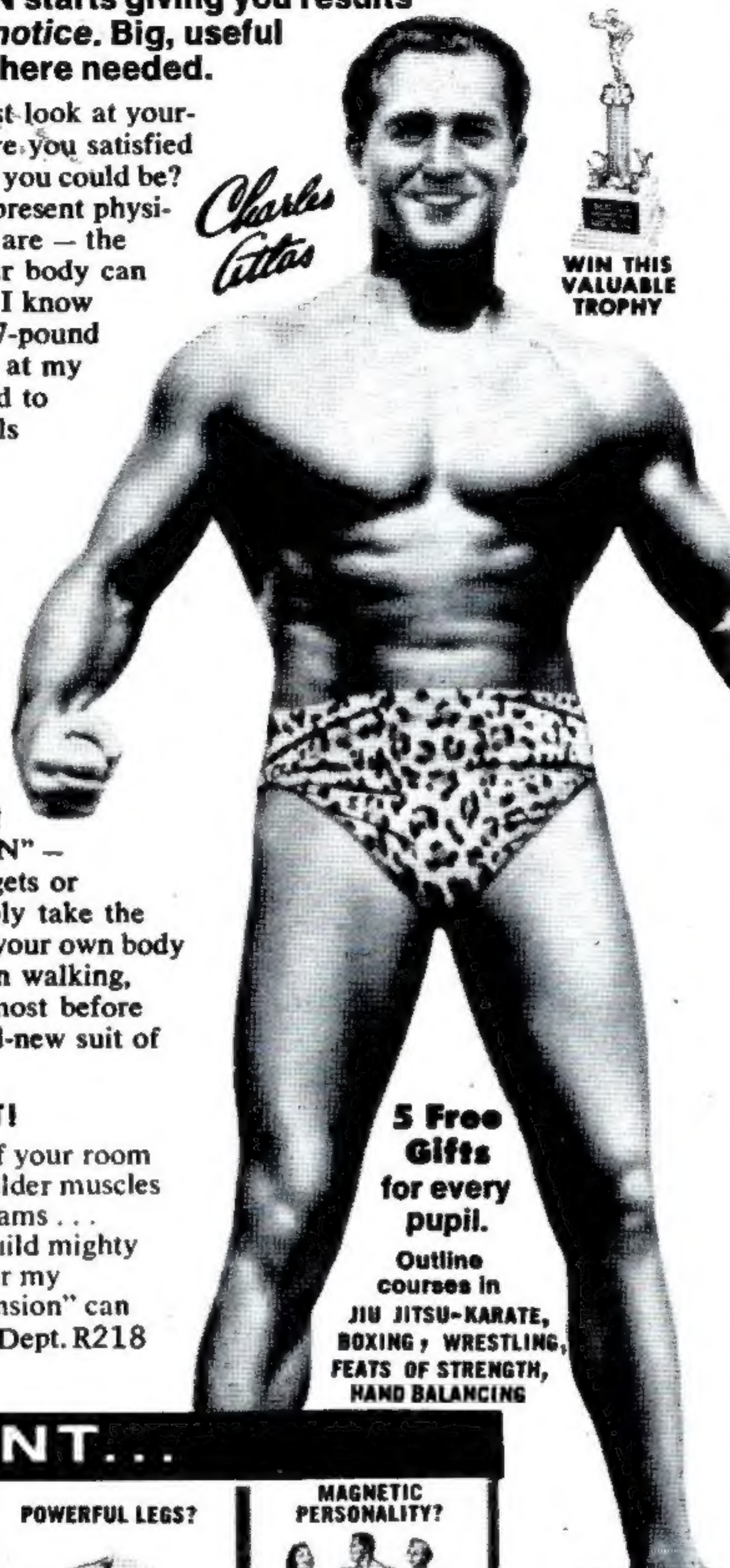
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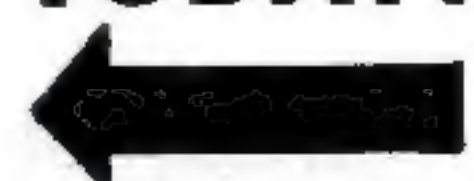
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